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THE FRUIT WORLD & "Market Grower"

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Special Articles This Month

South Australian News and Notes
Fertilizers for Fruit
Zinc Treatment for Vines
Seasonable Reports from the Goulburn Valley
Tasmanian News and Notes
Vegetable Culture
Queensland News and Notes
Australian Dried Fruits
Apple and Pear Notes
West Australian Reports

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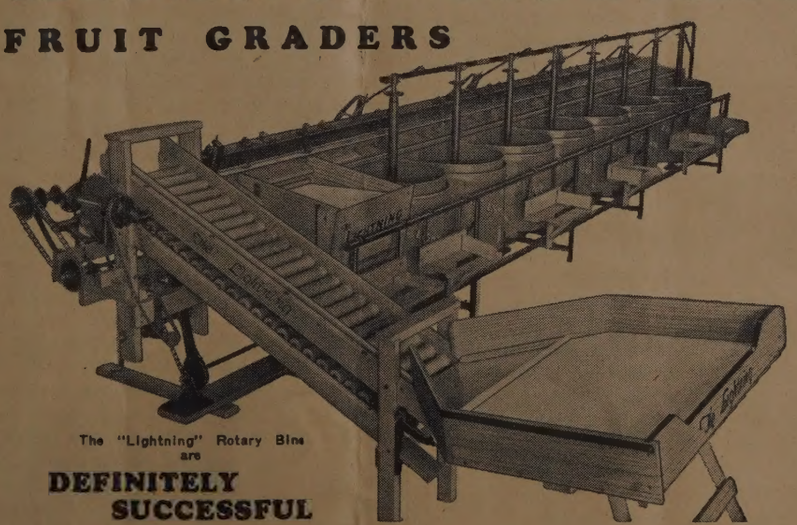

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Extract from "BETTER FRUIT," by Dr. R. L. Webster, Entomologist, State College of Washington, Pullman: CODLING MOTH COVER SPRAYS—"Ever since the imposition of an arsenic tolerance in 1936, and even before that time, investigators have been testing other materials which may be used in place of lead arsenate. Following all these intensive and extensive investigations lead arsenate appears to have certain inherent qualities which place this material foremost as an insecticide for codling moth control."

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West Australian News

Floods Affect Citrus and Vegetable Crops — Apple and Pear Problems — Hints for Citrus Growers — Tomato and Potato Industries.

(By Our Correspondent.)

AT THE BEGINNING of the month Oranges were scarce, owing to the heavy rains, but the aftermath of the storms is a glut of windfalls, which are selling for as little as 2/- a dump case. Lemons are plentiful, but the supply of Mandarins is not equal to the demand. Supplies of Apples have been good. Cape Gooseberries and Passionfruit have been quickly snapped up. Tomatoes have been scarce, mostly realising the maximum price.

Floods have made most vegetables very short, at one period the metropolitan markets having only sufficient to cover 10 per cent. of requirements. Lettuce will now probably be short until the end of the season, the crops at York being almost completely ruined.

A £2,000 crop of Celery in the gardens of Packer & Sons, at Cannington, was for some days under about 4 feet of water. Using rowing boats, some £500 worth was salvaged, and it is hoped that most of the crop will eventually be saved.

Reports received from Carnarvon indicate that recent rains have resulted in substantial benefits over the entire plantation area, and although recent shipments of **Bananas** have been held up owing to road and rail dislocation, supplies are expected to arrive in Perth any day. Output of Bananas, however, has been drastically reduced since the cyclone at the beginning of the year.

Recently a few **Pineapples** were noted on the Perth market. These are a rarity these days, and are selling at 1/3 per lb. Merchants are hoping that it will soon be possible to secure better supplies.

With the glut of windfall Oranges on the market, appeals are being made through the local press for housewives to use more Oranges in their cooking. A booklet of citrus recipes is being made available, free of charge, to those interested.

A deputation from the Geraldton **Tomato Growers' Association** recently waited on the Director of Works (Mr. R. J. Dumas), when he visited their district. They brought to his notice the ever increasing demand for water to serve the needs of their industry, explaining that they were now devoting greater attention to the production of early out-of-season Tomatoes for the Melbourne market. Recently there has been a somewhat alarming increase in the growth of this industry, and members of the deputation, questioned upon this matter, were somewhat at variance as to future prospects.

Mr. Dumas said that he was prepared to recommend to the Government that the gravity main from Wicherina dam be increased at a cost of £12,000 to increase present water deliveries by 30 per cent. He explained that both his department and the Government were anxious to stabilise the position, but in any scheme of expansion of the existing facilities, consideration had to be given to the present and the possible future condition of the industry. He suggested that the Association take measures towards the stabilising of the industry.

Since the recent heavy rains there have been many cases of Orange crops being affected with mould fungi. The State Superintendent of Horticulture (Mr. R. H. Powell) states that, owing to the wet weather, skins of navels have become tender and susceptible to injury, allowing moulds to easily attack otherwise sound fruits.

"If present weather conditions continue," said Mr. Powell, "further losses can be expected."

He gave the following suggestions for the prevention of injuries to fruit while being picked and packed:—1, Gloves provided for pickers to avoid finger-nail scratches; 2, suitable clippers to avoid cutting or bruising skins and leaving ragged stem fragments; 3, two clippings for each fruit——one to cut off tree, and second to cut stem short and clean; 4, care that fruit is placed, and not dropped, into picking bag; 5, proper picking bags that may be opened at bottom after lowering into box, so that fruit may roll gently, and not drop, into box; 6, picking boxes free from protruding nails, loose knots, splinters, sharp points, gravel or twigs; 7, avoidance of heaping boxes, and careful handling of filled boxes; 8, avoidance of jostling and shifting of boxes during carting to shed; 9, frequent inspection of machinery in packing sheds to avoid nails, splinters, rough corners, etc.; 10, packing bins padded and free from twigs—avoid dragging fruit around in bins; 11, gloves in handling fruit, in grading and in packing to avoid injuries from finger-nails; 12, fruit packed firmly and tightly, tops pressed down and nailed carefully to avoid breaking the skins of fruit on top layer.

Apples and Pears.

Over 80 fruitgrowers attended a meeting recently at Bridgetown to discuss the prices paid during the season to growers for Apples and Pears. Lengthy discussion covered cost of production, labour shortage, and the general inability of growers to carry out picking instructions. Speakers emphasised that instructions usually stipulated selective picking, which meant that after the fruit of a required size had been gathered, the tree often shed the balance of the crop. The claim generally was that increased prices should be paid for all fruit delivered, but there were some objections to this on the ground that it would be an undue hardship on many growers.

Principal motion carried was to the effect that all associations affiliated with the West Australian Fruitgrowers' Association should nominate two growers, and from this panel four growers should be selected to go to Canberra and place the position before the Minister for Commerce.

At a recent meeting of the State executive of the **Potatogrowers' Association** of W.A., the planning of Potato production and distribution for the next 12 months received a deal of consideration. Present contracts with the Australian Potato Committee expire in October next, and the Association considers that a similar scheme under Government control should be undertaken for a further period. This has been arranged with the Potato Advisory Committee. Association considers that every effort should be made in increase export trade in the future, rather than scale down production.

Seasonal Report.

Phenomenally heavy rains occurred in all fruit growing districts during June, states the Supt. of Horticulture, Mr. H. R. Powell. Cover crops are making good growth. On the steeper slopes some erosion has taken place. Several orchards on river flats in the Pinjarra district were flooded. Severe water erosion has taken place.

The Apple harvest was completed in the middle of June, when the packing sheds closed down. Varieties handled included Granny Smiths, Yates, Doherties and Rokewoods. A considerable quantity of fruit was harvested from the **Bridgetown** district during the season. In addition to 187,041 bushels of Apples and 20,376 bushels of Pears packed an additional 113,000 bushels of loose fruit were used either for mobile unit sales or for factory purposes.

Citrus: Thompson and Washington Navels, Emperor and Scarlet Mandarins and Lemons were marketed during the month. The wet weather caused a considerable quantity of Navel Oranges and Mandarins to fall. Fungus diseases as the green and blue moulds have been rather severe. Many fruits have been affected on the trees and in some instances packed fruit deteriorated very quickly on the market floors. The incidence of "Water Spot" has also been higher than usual. Owing to the large quantity of wind-fall Navels, the juice processing factory has been heavily supplied with fruit.

Pest Control: The incidence of disease generally has been light; very little fruit fly infested fruit has been seen and it is hoped that the rough weather will considerably reduce the number of flies carried over into next fruit season.

San Jose Scale has slightly increased and growers, when the weather is more favourable, will commence spraying operations.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH AND NEW ZEALAND, 6/-, Post Free. Including "Fruit World Annual," 7/6 per annum.
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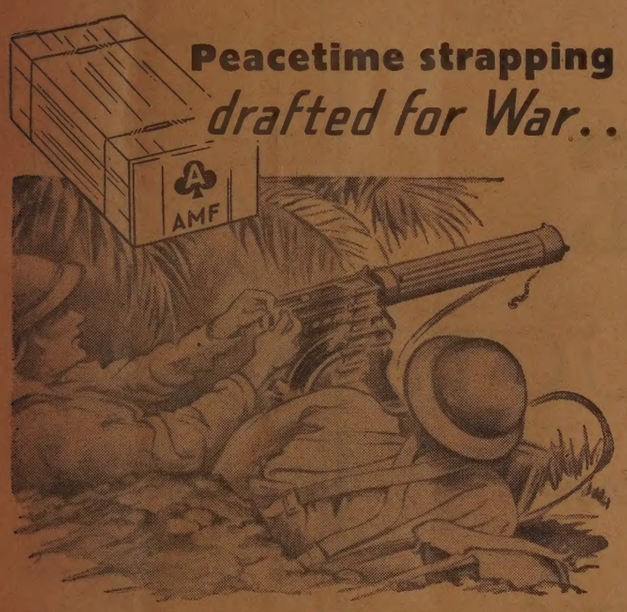
August 7th, 1945



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NEWS OF THE MONTH

Events are moving rapidly. Surely, with the great blows falling on Japan, the end cannot be long delayed. Mr. Churchill says that the end may come sooner than was previously estimated.

There will be far-reaching effects from the British elections. The people of Britain have spoken with no uncertain voice, and as the swing in Britain is similar to tendencies elsewhere in the world it is probable that planning for peace will be the aim, just as there was national planning for war.

We are living in days fraught with tremendous possibilities which affect every member of the community — a period which calls for the exercise of all of our resourcefulness and adaptability, with goodwill and tolerance in facing a new outlook.

The new charters variously indicated by such names as Atlantic, Dunbarton Oaks, Bretton Woods, Yalta, Potsdam, etc., envisage a new world conception of production, distribution, social security and full employment.

:: :: ::

The free world owes an eternal debt of gratitude to Winston Churchill, who guided our destinies during the dark days of the war. One of the finest cartoons was that published in a Melbourne daily, showing Mr. Churchill in cricketing attire walking back to the pavilion, bat in hand to the applause of the shades of England's great leaders. The stumps are scattered by a ball marked "vote."—and the caption reads—"Well played, Sir."

RATIONING AND CONTROLS.

Speaking to the National Council of women recently, Prof. Copland said that people who imagined that a declaration of peace would lead to an early cessation of price control and rationing in Australia would be doomed to disappointment. Prof. Copland went on to give the reasons for these views.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The marked deterioration in orchards due to fertilizer and manpower shortages is causing alarm.

Victorian growers have expressed keen regret at the loss to the services in the State of scientific research officers owing to the payment of inadequate salaries.

Improved fruit trees are sought from nurserymen—based on bud selection.

Long range views regarding dried fruits and Pineapples are given in this issue.

OBITUARY.

Mr. J. W. Aspinall.

Mr. Joseph William Aspinall died at his home in Box Hill on July 26, in his 85th year. Until recently he was Secretary of the Southern Victoria Fruitgrowers' Association. Throughout his life he was closely associated with the fruit industry, an organiser of open air, or kerb markets. He had been a Shire Councillor and Shire President.

The late Mr. Aspinall was widely esteemed: he leaves a record of fine community service. He was one of the team including the late F. G. Beet, who visited schools when Apples were distributed to children.

He was an active church worker, and, with the exception of a short absence in Queensland, played the organ at Woodhouse Grove Methodist Church, Box Hill, regularly for more than 60 years. He has left a widow, two sons, three daughters, 15 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Index to Advertisers

	Page
Bay View Fruit Picking Bags	6
Bingham, D. W., and Co.	11
Blyth Chemicals Ltd.	5
Brisbane Fruit Merchants	19
Brookes Lemos Ltd.	15
Cooper, Wm., and Nephews (Aust.) Pty. Ltd.	7
David Mitchell Estate	12
F. and M.G. Society	9
Gerrard Wire Tying Machine Co. Pty. Ltd.	3
Harvey, Daniel, Ltd.	10
International Harvester Co. of Aust. Pty. Ltd.	13, 15
Imperial Chemicals Ltd.	14
Jaques Pty. Ltd.	2
Jones, H., & Co. Pty. Ltd.	12
Leggo, Victor, and Farmers Ltd.	8
Lloyd, M.	5
Lightning Fruit Grader Co.	1
Melbourne Fruit Merchants	17
Neptune Oil Co. Ltd.	4
Paterson and Co. Ltd.	11
Producers' Co-op. Dist. Soc.	9
Queensland Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries	16
Rocla Ltd.	14
Russell Burrows Pty. Ltd.	7
Silbert, Sharp and Bishop Ltd.	9, 12
Stebbins, F.	8
Sydney Fruit Merchants	18
U'Ren, Geo. A.	10
Vacuum Oil Co. Pty. Ltd.	6
Victorian Chamber of Fruit & Vegetable Industries	19
Werner, R., & Co. Pty. Ltd.	20

PERSONAL.

Mr. H. G. Harvey, of Daniel Harvey Limited, Box Hill, who is at present visiting Tasmania, writes that he has recently visited the Rostrevor Estate, which is the largest exclusive Apple and Pear orchard in the Commonwealth.

All of its 450 acres are cultivated with Harvey equipment, the fruit itself being graded with Harvey grading units.

Mr. Harvey is expected back in Melbourne shortly.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise has become Premier of Western Australia in place of Hon. J. C. Willcock, who resigned for health reasons.

Mr. Wise, who is a native of Queensland, has had a distinguished Parliamentary career. As Minister for Agriculture for many years he was appreciated by fruitgrowers and other primary producers.

Mr. Harold Rabling, who succeeds Mr. Chas. K. Gamble as chairman and managing director of the Vacuum Oil Co. Ltd., is an Australian, having been born at Clunes, Victoria, He served with distinction in the last war, and after spending many years abroad, fulfilled a high position with his present company in New York. His wide knowledge of the oil industry and commercial affairs generally should be of great value.

SAVE THE FORESTS.

The "Save the Forests" campaign is performing services of great value to the community. District Committees are now formed in many centres. A leaflet has been issued, outlining a proposal for increased country representation on the campaign council. Where district committees are not in existence, a letter to the Shire Secretary would assist in forming one. The hon. organiser is the Hon. C. E. Isaac, M.L.C., 314 Collins-street, Melbourne. A special meeting will be held at Melbourne on August 16.

CALIFORNIAN CITRUS GROWERS

The annual report of the California Fruit Growers' Exchange (Sunkist Citrus) for the year ended October 31, 1944, is of great interest. This is one of the largest and most successful co-operative societies in the world.

The total quantity of citrus harvested in U.S.A. in 1943-44, was 415,000 carloads, equal to over 190,000,000 cases.

The California Exchange is made up of 25 district exchanges, representing 14,500 citrus growers.

Citrus Price Control has been in operation for over two years.

The advertising campaign is continuing with good results.

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NEPTUNE WHITE SPRAYING OIL
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ARSENATE OF LEAD
SPRAY SPREADERS

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Agents in all Fruit-Growing Areas.

STH. AFRICAN CITRUS.

Controlled Distribution Adopted as Post-War Policy.

The marketing and distribution of Oranges was controlled in South Africa as an emergency war measure.

After full discussion, growers have decided to continue, after the war, the controlled distribution and marketing of all Sth. African citrus, both on overseas and on local markets.

This is described by the "South African Citrus Grower" as "a momentous decision and the crowning achievement of the citrus industry."

The control will operate through the growers' own organisation — the Sth. African Co-operative Citrus Exchange.

U.S.A. PEAR BUREAU.

Local Pear Consumption Doubled.

"Conditioning" and Advertising.

At the recent annual meeting of the Oregon-Washington-California Pear Bureau, it was noted that the marketing of Winter Pears (i.e., Pears other than for canning) had been almost doubled in U.S.A. since the war. Pre-war approximately 47 per cent. of the crop was exported.

Success was due to the system of supplying "conditioned" Pears, i.e., ripening the Pears to a proper condition before placing with retailers. An extensive advertising campaign had been conducted and this was continuing.

APPLES IN U.S.A.

Review by Secretary Fraser, of the International Apple Association.

Recently a visit to U.S.A. Pacific Coast States was paid by Mr. Samuel Fraser, Secretary of the International Apple Association. Some of the points made by Mr. Fraser as reported in "Appleland News," included the following:—Apples are in a good statistical position and the industry should be able to sell the 1945 crop close to the ceilings. The ageing of trees and other factors had kept the bearing acreage within bounds: but it was not wise to keep Apple production down to the limits of domestic requirements since in normal times there would not be enough in season such as in 1943.

The freezing of Apples is practised in Eastern U.S.A., and is on the increase: frozen Apples make good Apple pies. Much ingenuity is being shown in the processing of Apples and new blends are being evolved. Growers are organising in districts to improve marketing.

Referring to other fruits, Mr. Fraser said that the Apple industry would have to reckon with the citrus industry, which this season had a short crop, but also had large potentialities. Production of citrus fruits in Palestine, Spain and Brazil is on the decline.

Sweden and France had already made enquiries for Washington Apples, but the difficulty of supplying such demand will lie in getting the boats to carry the fruit.

SEASONABLE NOTES

VICTORIAN HORTICULTURAL CONDITIONS.

Melbourne (3/8/45).

A summary of horticultural conditions in Victoria is given in the following report from the Dept. of Agric.:—

Although soil moisture conditions are satisfactory at the present time, further rain is required to fill private storages and dams servicing the Murray and Goulburn Valley, Harcourt and Horsham irrigated horticultural areas. Widespread frosts have delayed growth of green manure crops, but where these were established early under irrigation, satisfactory growth has been made.

The fodder shortage is causing some concern to fruitgrowers, some of whom have been unable to cultivate and spray their orchards because of the poor condition of their horses.

Pruning is well in hand on most deciduous orchards and growers are applying their Winter sprays of tar distillate and D.N.C. sprays for the green Peach aphis and oil sprays for bryobia mite and scale insects.

Bordeaux sprays will be applied fairly generally to stone fruits for the control of Peach leaf curl, shot hole, etc. A good blossoming of Almonds has occurred in the Mildura district. Japanese varieties of Plums were commencing to bloom towards the end of July in metropolitan districts.

Crop prospects for most deciduous fruit varieties appear to be excellent, but Pears in the Metropolitan and Harcourt districts are showing only a light development of blossom buds.

In the dried fruits districts pruning of vines is in progress. Growers are having some difficulty in dealing with the abnormal growth of the vines. In the Swan Hill district the wind damage to vines was apparently less than at Mildura. A considerable amount of drainage work is being carried out in the dried fruits districts.

Citrus: The harvesting of the Washington Navel crop at Mildura is nearing completion. Fruit has sized up well and larger crops than expected are being picked. A heavy fall of Grapefruit occurred after the rain, but the fruit was picked up and sent to factories for juice extraction. Valencia Oranges are commencing to colour up and crops should be almost normal. Navel Oranges being picked in the Swan Hill district are rind marked, but the fruit is of excellent flavour. Only small quantities of Navels have been despatched from the Rochester district. The rain in June has improved prospects of the citrus groves at Wangaratta. A heavy fall of fruit following the rain should allow the remaining fruit to reach marketable size. No serious frost damage has yet occurred on citrus groves.

Vegetables: Some early Tomato plants have already been planted out in the Swan Hill district. Seedling beds have been established in other Tomato growing districts, some of which were damaged by frost.

Very little rain was recorded in East Gippsland during July, but excellent falls were recorded in the South Gippsland vegetable areas. Carrots are still being lifted in these districts. Much of the Bean seed being delivered to seed mills in East Gippsland is of poor quality because of rain damage during the harvest period.

In the Kooweerup area, frosts delayed the growth of East Ham and Irish Cabbage crops.

PRUNING DECIDUOUS FRUIT TREES.

Spraying: Soils and Stocks.

THE LEAVES are the lungs of the tree. Pruning needs a lot of studying, as there are several ways in which a tree can be pruned, depending on the variety and where it is grown. This was stated by Mr. L. Spargo, of Ashton, S. Aust., recently, in a paper before the Agricultural Bureau. Continuing, Mr. Spargo stated:—

Lateral pruning needs a great deal of consideration, otherwise if you indulge in it too greatly you will find the tree will be overcrowded, which means a poor grade of irregular fruit, unsatisfactory colour and a thick covering for diseases. If it is studied carefully you will find that the lateral if balanced correctly is an asset to the outer portion of the tree, where it forms and grows into its outer branches later as the tree goes on in life.

The distance between laterals is very important. They should be sufficiently wide apart to permit the proper growth and colouring of the fruit. It is very wise after the laterals have fruited, to cut back to a profitable condition, by thinning out and spacing the leaders and at the same time shortening and thinning off some of the spurs and laterals upon those left, so that ample supply of light and air is guaranteed to every one.

Spur pruning in some ways has its advantages over the laterals. In spur pruning the fruit has a much better chance of being better graded, better coloured, cleaner from disease, and better able to stand up to weather conditions, and the tree itself is able to stand up to the heavy crops without breaking.

The spur bud must also be very carefully studied. When a tree has produced crops for a number of years, and the spurs begin to ramify, they will require thinning from time to time to make room for the expansion of the fruiting wood. There is a tendency with the mature tree when it has reached its normal size and after continual bearing, for the spurs to become weaker and run out, which causes the fruit at this period to become irregular and the cropping erratic. To avoid this condition it is necessary to keep spurs cut back and thinned out, but care must be taken not to over-do the cutting or you may turn the fruiting to the alternative year, thus missing the next year's crop. The object of pruning is to increase the size, appearance, and quality of the fruit and to secure regular crops over a long period.

In the spraying of the tree we find it one of the greatest problems of all. I think in the near future we will have to study the system of the tree more carefully and get down to our soil deficiencies. If the system of the tree is not functioning correctly we will have to try and put back what our soils are lacking and our diseases will have to be treated through the soils as well as spraying the tree itself.

The tree itself depends largely upon the stock on which it is grown, but the care of the tree depends entirely upon man.

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TURBOT STREET, BRISBANE.
Satisfaction Assured.

M. LLOYD
43
BRISBANE

Stencils on Application.

FERTILIZERS FOR FRUIT.

Rations Available in Victoria.

The Director of Agriculture, Mr. H. A. Mullett, announced that fruitgrowers may now receive their quota of nitrogenous fertilizers for 1945-46 season. Nitrate of soda is the only nitrogenous fertilizer available for fruit, with the exception of certain priority types for which limited quantities of sulphate of ammonia can be supplied.

In recent years, sulphate of ammonia, which was in very short supply, was issued solely for vegetables, Potatoes and irrigated citrus. This season the quota of sulphate of ammonia allocated to Victoria has been increased to enable a ration to be provided for dried vines and canning or dried tree fruits grown in the northern irrigated areas.

The standard ration available for fruitgrowers in the southern districts is 3 cwt. per acre of nitrate of soda and for citrus up to 6 cwt. per acre. Growers in those districts may procure their nitrate of soda (same quantity as last season) direct from their usual supplier—a further application form is not required.

The rations available for the respective types of fruit grown in the

Blyth's "BLUE BELL" Quality Sprays

MADE IN AUSTRALIA.

For Over Twenty-five Years "BLUE BELL" Arsenate of Lead has Proved a Faithful Friend to Growers.

Extract from "Better Fruit" (U.S.A.), Spraying and Pest Control Edition.

CODLIN MOTH CONTROL

By Arthur D. Borden, University of California

"LEAD ARSENATE is our standard spray material to-day. None of the many substitutes which have been tested have proved to be as toxic and effective in control."

Arsenate of Lead (Paste or Powder), Lime Sulphur, Special Copper Mixture (Fungicide), Spray Spreader, White Oil, Nicotine Sulphate, Red Oil, etc.

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New South Wales: Lanes Ltd., 69 Abercombie St., Sydney.
Queensland: A.C.F. and Shirleys Fertilizers Ltd., Brisbane.
South Australia: George Wills & Co. Ltd., Gilbert House, Gilbert Place, Adelaide.
Western Australia: Gibbs, Bright & Co., 179 St. George's Terrace, Perth.

Works: PRAHRAN GROVE, ELSTERNWICK, VICTORIA — LF 1468

northern irrigation areas are as follow:—

For citrus: Sulphate of ammonia 4 cwt. per acre, and nitrate of soda 3 cwt. per acre.

For dried vines: Sulphate of ammonia 1½ cwt. per acre, and nitrate of soda 1 cwt. per acre.

For canning or dried tree fruits: Sulphate of ammonia 1 cwt. per acre, and nitrate of soda 2 cwt. per acre.

For all other fruit: Nitrate of soda 3 cwt. per acre.

Fruitgrowers in the northern areas must apply for their requirements for canning or dried tree fruits and all other varieties (except citrus and dried vines) on a special application form.

These forms will be available from the fertilizer distributors and from the Fertilizer Section, Department of Agriculture, Melbourne. The application, when completed, must be referred to the local Orchard Supervisor or the Chairman of the District or Local War Agricultural Committee for certification, before being forwarded to the Department of Agriculture.

The rations for citrus and dried vine fruits can be procured direct from the Packing Company or agency with whom the grower is already registered for fertilizer supplies.

The price of nitrate of soda and sulphate of ammonia is £18/10/- per ton, f.o.r. Melbourne, less discount of 5/- and 6/6 per ton respectively for cash payment. Fruitgrowers are advised to lodge their orders immediately and take delivery of their fertilizer without delay so that it will be on hand when required.

Limited quantities of potash are available for fruit and other crops. Application for a permit for this fertilizer should be made to the Fertilizer Section, Dept. of Agric., Melbourne, and applicants should state the quantity of potash required, the area and type of crops to be treated and the name of their fertilizer supplier.

GRAPE VINE SPRAYING.

For Black Spot, Spray With Bordeaux Just Prior to Bud Burst.

ANTHRACNOSE, OR BLACK SPOT, one of the serious diseases of Grape vines can be controlled by Bordeaux spraying. Hints from the N.S.W. Dept. of Agric. are as follow:—

The first spray application should be made just prior to bud burst. Bordeaux mixture, 6-4-40, or lime sulphur, 1 in 8, may be used, the lime sulphur, however, having the additional advantage of being effective in the control of mites.

A further spray application of Bordeaux mixture, 6-4-50, should be made when the shoots are about six inches long. If weather conditions favour the disease, spray with Bordeaux, 6-4-50, just before blossoming, and again as soon as the fruit has set.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO ORCHARDISTS

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Spraying Oil

For many years, Gargoyle RED Spraying Oil has been acknowledged unsurpassed for the winter (dormant season) spray programme. It has been sought after and used by Orchardists throughout Australia.

NOW we would bring before you Gargoyle PALE Spraying Oil. Gargoyle PALE has been available for some years but Orchardists have not been fully aware of its outstanding properties. Gargoyle PALE is a mayonnaise emulsion and is ideal for inclusion in fungicidal sprays to be applied not later than the "green tip" stage. It will mix with most waters—it combines the function of the winter spray with that of a fungicidal adjunct.

Try Gargoyle PALE Spraying Oil on a few of the worst of your pest infected trees—either alone or as a spreader of copper-base mixtures—you'll be more than surprised: its pest-destroying abilities are outstanding.

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PRODUCERS' CONFERENCE, LONDON.

Postponed Until May Next.

The conference of representatives of primary producer organisations which was to have been held in London during October to discuss the constitution of an International Farmers' Federation has been postponed until May next year, owing to difficulties caused by transport and accommodation.

A cable message to that effect has been received by Mr. R. C. Gibson, Chairman of the Primary Producers' Council of Australia.

Mr. Gibson said that the change in date would be an advantage to delegates attending the conference as it would give ample time for them to prepare for what would be, in his opinion, the most important conference of primary producers in international history.

The British Farmers' delegation, under the leadership of Mr. James Turner, arrived back in London on the eve of V-E Day, Mr. Gibson went on, and although preliminary arrangements had been commenced immediately, it was felt that insufficient time was available to allow representatives of the participating countries to consider the draft constitution and agenda prior to the conference.

NEW USE FOR PEANUTS.

Added to Cotton and Wool for Fabrics

A NEW FABRIC is being manufactured, a mixture of wool, or cotton, and the protein of Peanuts.

This is a British invention; the name of the new fabric is Ardil, manufactured by the International Chemical Company.

The "Draper of Australia" quotes details from a London newspaper in giving details. Ardil is not a substitute for or competitor with wool: it is a complementary fibre. It enables lighter woollen fabrics to be made. When mixed with cellulose—cotton or rayon—Ardil changes the character of the final fabric, adding warmth, fullness of handling and a crease resistance to the cloth. A vast development is forecast. Ardil does not shrink nor do moths attack it.

In the manufacturing process the protein is simply extracted from the Peanuts with dilute alkali, precipitated, and then made into a spinning solution.

Before the war about 8,000,000 tons of Peanuts were produced in India, Africa, China, Borneo, America and Australia. The oil is used for human foodstuffs, such as salad oil and margarine, and the residue, after the protein has been extracted for the manufacture of Ardil can be used for cattle feed.

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Tasmanian News and Notes

PRUNING, CULTIVATION, FERTILISERS — APPLE AND PEAR GROWERS' UNION — FRUIT CASE PROBLEMS — NEED FOR AUSTRALIAN-WIDE ORGANISATION OF APPLE AND PEAR GROWERS.

(By Our Correspondent.)

IN THE NORTHERN fruitgrowing areas there has been a good rainfall during the past five or six weeks, and the subsoil has received a good wetting. In some places the cover crops have made a good growth.

Pruning is well under way, and the buds look very well developed in both Apples and Pears, and given favourable conditions later in the season, the crop should be quite up to the average. There have been some very severe frosts.

Very few orchards have been ploughed yet, as winter ploughing is not favoured in the Tamar district, owing to the tendency to erosion. The drying factories are still working, and the cool stores still have the bulk of the fruit left.

In the Southern fruitgrowing areas there has been a long, dry spell, but there was a rather heavy rain, with hail and snow, on the hills on July 20th, which should reach the subsoil in most places. Frosts have been numerous and rather severe, but the early blossoming flowers and Wattles and Flowering Plums, etc., seem a little earlier than usual. Conditions are still too dry north of Hobart, on the eastern side of the mountains.

Pruning is well advanced in most orchards, but few are ploughed, the cover crops are patchy, the autumn drought having checked their growth except in a few favoured localities.

There is still some fruit in the sheds, which is mostly going to the factories, leaving the cool stores to supply the markets.

I understand the quality of the orchard fertilizer will be a little better than last year, but the quantity is still insufficient to keep the trees in really good health.

The berry fruit plantations are being well looked after in most instances, as it is anticipated that the entire crop will be wanted for processing again this season, but many growers are considering reducing their areas, as owing to high costs for labour and picking, the margin is too small to make it worth while to take risks incidental to production and then pay heavy taxes if they happen to have a good season.

Vegetable contracts are being signed again this year, but I undestand the areas are not as large as last year.

As the Tasmanian Producers Organisation and the Primary Producers' Union (which both claim to represent all branches of primary production) cannot agree to amalgamate, the Apple and Pear growers are forming a union of their own. So far the proposal has been well received, and a fair percentage of the southern growers are joining up. Some organisation covering fruitgrowers separate from the other branches of primary production is needed, as our problems are apparently more complex and the industry sufficiently important to warrant an organisation of its own, which could co-operate with other bodies as occasion arose.

As I mentioned last month, the State Fruit Board sent in a recommendation **to have pine cases (either in shooks or logs) admitted duty free, but so far no reply has been received. This is a matter that mainland organisations would do well to support us in, as the position is getting worse as time goes on.**

There is considerable speculation as to whether the Apple and Pear Export Board brought into being just previous to the war by Mr. Cameron, M.H.R., will come into operation after the expiry of the National Security Regulations, and whether it will be nominated or elected. An official statement on the subject would be appreciated. Perhaps the conference to be called by the N.S.W. Premier will be able to throw some light on the subject. It is certainly time we had some indication of the Government's intentions with regard to the export trade. If the old Apple and Pear Council was revived, as has been suggested, it would be a start for an all Australian body that would be fairly representative of the trade as a whole.

TASMANIAN STATE FRUIT BOARD.

At the July meeting of the Tasmanian State Fruit Board, a resolution was agreed to favouring a revival of the Australian Apple and Pear Council, but with the personnel limited to "bona fide fruitgrowers." It was noted that the Council, as at present constituted, contained shippers and merchants.

A report was received that the N.S.W. Apple and Pear Growers' Association desired a Commonwealth organisation of Apple and Pear growers, and that the N.S.W. Minister for Agriculture was being asked to convene this conference.

There was a discussion regarding the new Apple and Pear Growers' Union of Tasmania, about which opinions favourable and unfavourable, were expressed.

TASMANIA.

Hail Damaged Fruit.

In reply to a question by Dame Enid Lyons in the House of Representatives, the Minister for Commerce and Agriculture (Mr. Scully) stated that with regard to hail damaged fruit in the Mersey Valley, he had approved of the adoption by the Apple and Pear Marketing Board of special grades to cover hail-damaged Apples suitable for processing. The question of rates of advances was being considered.

TASMANIAN APPLES IN ENGLAND.

Shipment in Excellent Order.

This season's Tasmanian Apples, which arrived at Liverpool on April 17th per m.v. "Sussex," were favourably commented on by the Tasmanian Agent-General (Sir Claude James), according to a report furnished to the Tasmanian State Fruit Board by the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Madden).

The varieties included Cleos. and Jonathans: the shipment was discharged in excellent condition, and the fruit was attractive in appearance and eating quality.

DEVASTATING FROSTS IN ENGLAND.

Disaster to Fruit Crops.

English fruit crops have suffered major damage owing to frosts in April and May. Berry and stone fruits were practically wiped out. It had been hoped that the Apple and Pear crops would have been safe, but latest information shows that the damage is very great, some districts having lost 75 per cent. of these fruits.

REFRIGERATED TONNAGE.

Plenty of Ships Available, says British Transport Minister.

A BIG IMPROVEMENT in the shipping position since the end of the European war was reported in mid-July by the British Minister for Transport, Lord Leathers, who said there were now plenty of ships with refrigerated space to convey any foodstuffs that Australia and New Zealand could spare for the U.K. and Continent.

U.S.A. EXPORT COUNCIL.

To deal with export, the United States Horticultural Export Council is in process of formation.

Import problems, as well as export matters, will be dealt with, and the Council is to act in an advisory capacity to Governmental agencies. The Council is being got ready to deal with post-war problems.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Elder Smith & Co. Ltd., Currie St., Adelaide.
TASMANIA: A. G. Webster & Sons, Hobart. Henry Jones & Co., Launceston.
WEST AUSTRALIA: Westralian Farmers Ltd., Wellington St., Perth.

OBITUARY

Vale, George Wickens.

The death occurred on July 10 of Mr. George W. Wickens, who was for many years Superintendent of Horticulture in the Western Australian Department of Agriculture. His passing is a matter of sincere regret to all those engaged in the fruit-growing industry. By his intimate knowledge of horticulture and through his eager friendly ways by which he got things done, he assisted in no small way in placing the industry where it is to-day.

George Wickens was born in Lockwood, a small town near Bendigo, Victoria, on November 5, 1874. His extensive knowledge of fruit-growing was gained on his father's orchard, where, from an early age, he assisted in every phase of orchard work.

In 1900, at the age of 26, young Wickens came to try his fortunes in the West His first job was with the late Charles Harper, who at that time conducted a fruit tree nursery on his Woodbridge estate at Guildford.

The experience gained on the nursery, where he had an opportunity of thoroughly grasping all phases,

The late Mr. G. W. Wickens.

proved a valuable adjunct to his already extensive knowledge. At this time the late Mr. Harper was an influential member of the Agricultural Bureau which later became the Department of Agriculture. When a vacancy occurred in the Bureau's Inspection Staff in 1902, Mr. Harper, who was impressed by George Wickens' personality and knowledge, was able to arrange his appointment as a temporary inspector. The position was made permanent in January, 1903, and thus began a career which proved invaluable to the industry for a period of 36 years.

As an Inspector first of all under the late A. Despeissis, then later under J. F. Moody, he was stationed in turn at both Bridgetown and Bunbury. These districts embraced all the major fruit-growing areas in the south west, south of Pinjarra. During these years, George Wickens, both as Inspector and as an Advisor, was able to control the major insect pests and diseases which threatened the young orchards, and by his extensive knowledge, to assist many growers to build up their orchards on sound commercial lines.

Shortly after Mr. J. F. Moody was appointed Fruit Industries Commissioner, George Wickens was selected in July, 1912, for the post of Chief Inspector under the Insects Pests Act. As Chief Inspector it was necessary for him to visit all the fruit-growing districts, and the experience gained was invaluable to him, when later he became head of the branch. It was not strange, therefore, that when Mr. Moody retired early in 1918, he was appointed to succeed him the following July.

During the years that followed, up to his retirement on November 5, 1939, he occupied a very prominent place in the fruit-growing world, not only in his own State, but in the other Australian States as well. It was necessary for him on frequent occasions to visit the Eastern States to attend conferences, the results of which had very important bearings on the industry as a whole.

He was associated, as mentioned previously, with the growth of the fruit-growing industry in this State from its infancy. The young industry which had only exported fruit to the value of £15 in 1903 gained momentum. In 1918, the value had reached £35,689 and in 1939 the year he retired a record quantity of fruit valued at £648,985 was shipped overseas.

In this State his advice resulted in better orchards and better fruit; at the same time he was able to prevent the establishment of certain very serious pests and diseases. Such dangerous situations, when the outbreaks of codling moth and Apple scab threatened to devastate Apple orchards, were tactfully and firmly handled, and serious outbreaks which occurred from time to time were in every instance successfully eradicated.

George Wickens, in his later years, evolved a system of pruning which has been named after him. His system differs fundamentally from the orthodox systems and has been widely practised. At the time considerable interest was aroused in the Eastern States and he received many letters from growers in those States who were anxious to try it out.

Although George Wickens has passed on, his name will be long remembered. His cheerful whimsical manner endeared him to all he came into contact with, and he was regarded by both growers and his own officers alike with the deepest respect and affection. Right up until his last illness, he retained his keen interest in his beloved fruit trees.

The funeral was largely attended, all sections of the fruit industry being represented.

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"Ill fares it with the flock
If shepherds wrangle when the wolf is nigh."

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS AND NOTES

Official Reports and Notes of the South Australian Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association.

S.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association Inc.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the above Association was held on July 27, 1945. Mr. R. A. Cramond, President of the Asso., presided over the meeting, which was attended by the following Committeemen:—Messrs. H. B. Robson, G. H. Schultz, R. B. Pritchard, C. J. Pitt, H. N. Wicks, N. T. Hobbs, W. Wye, C. J. Willsmore, J. Turner, A. R. Martin, J. B. Randall, O. Esselbach, W. Nicol, A. O. Petersen, L. F. Burdett, W. J. Bishop, and A. G. Strickland (Chief Horticulturist).

Apologies were received from Messrs. A. Stuart (Secretary), F. Halliday, S. Walker, L. Winser, and L. J. Wicks. In the absence of the Secretary, Mr. W. Wright, acted as minute Secretary. The minutes of the previous meeting as reported in the "Fruit World" were confirmed.

Correspondence was read and dealt with as follows:—

A letter was received from the Secretary of the Vegetable Growers of N.S.W., stating that the A.W.U. had submitted a log to cover miscellaneous workers in Industrial Industries, but as the log was not acceptable to his body, they were submitting another log, a copy of which he enclosed for information of this Association. He also stated that the preliminary hearing of the claim was held in Melbourne on 17/7/45, but was then adjourned until 21/8/45.

Mr. Bishop stated that the claim was vitally important to the Association, and that Mr. Stott, M.P., had stated his willingness to act as our representative.

Mr. Randall moved: "That Mr. Stott be asked to represent this Association at the hearing of the claim in Melbourne on 21/8/45. Seconded by Mr. Schultz and carried.

Mr. Randall moved: "That this Association endorse the log as suggested by the N.S.W. Vegetable Association." Seconded Mr. Pritchard.

An amendment was moved by Mr. Martin: "That the chairman of the various sections be called together to go into the suggested log as submitted by the N.S.W. Vegetable Association, and amend same if thought necessary, and refer same to a general meeting of growers, before Mr. Stott proceeds to Melbourne." Seconded Mr. Bishop.

Messrs. Randall and Pritchard withdrew their motion in favour of the amendment and the amendment became the motion, which was carried.

Annual Meeting.

On the motion of Messrs. Schultz and Robson, the following schedule for the annual meeting was agreed to:

Executive Committee meets at 10 a.m., September 27, 1945.

Annual meeting, 10.30 a.m., September 27, 1945.

Annual meeting and guest speaker, 2 p.m., September 27, 1945.

It was decided to invite Professor Copland as the guest speaker, and ask his Excellency the Governor (Sir Willoughby Norrie) to open the annual meeting. The Premier of South Australia (Hon. T. Playford) who is the patron of the Association was also expected to attend the meeting.

Sectional and Branch Reports.

Society: Mr. Bishop stated that the Society had experienced a record year, although the selling floor was working under difficulties. He appealed to all growers to patronise the floor, and said that shortly there would be a wide range of machinery on view. The manure position was getting worse, and growers were experiencing difficulties in getting small supplies. Bluestone was also very scarce. One executive member from the Association was due to retire this year, but was eligible for re-election. Nominations would close on 14/8/45.

Mr. Peterson moved: "That Mr. Strickland be authorised to approach agents re supply of bluestone to growers." Seconded Mr. Turner and carried.

Mr. J. Turner (retiring member) was nominated by Mr. Randall for the executive on the Society. Seconded Mr. Schultz. Mr. Turner was elected unopposed.

Cherry Section: Mr. Bishop reported that representatives of the Soft Fruits Section had met members of the Prices Branch recently, when prices and the conditions applying to the industry was discussed.

Citrus Section: Mr. Esselbach said that frosts had caused damage to small shoots. Mr. Hobbs reported that trees at Paradise had been cut considerably by the frosts.

Vegetable Section: Mr. Martin reported that the Committee had met the Prices Branch and he thought that quite a lot of good resulted from the interview. He hoped that a new set of prices would soon be announced that would be acceptable to growers. (Later in the day a new set of prices was announced by the Deputy Prices Commissioner which was an increase on the previous Order,—Secretary.)

Tomato Section: Mr. Martin said that quite a lot of damage had been done by the frosts, and in some cases it was worse than last year. Professor Copland had visited some of the places during his recent visit to Adelaide.

Cherry Section: Mr. Martin reported that the continued dry weather had held back growth. Celery was still selling freely. There should be increased supplies later in the year.

Marion Branch: Mr. Bishop informed the members present that the annual meeting of the Marion Branch was to be held on August 1, and an invitation was extended to members to be present.

Onkaparinga Branch: Mr. Pitt reported that the Onkaparinga Branch was holding a meeting on August 16, and perhaps the meeting between the Premier and the Delegation from Potato growers could be deferred until after that meeting. He understood that Mr. Stuart had made arrangements for the Delegation to meet the Premier on August 2.

Port Pirie Branch: Mr. Bishop said that the branch was functioning successfully and 34 members had joined the Association. They were hoping to form a Branch at Nelshaby, where Glass House Tomatoes and Peas were being grown, and the branch had invited Messrs. Stuart and McRostie to visit Port Pirie at an early date. Messrs. Stuart and McRostie were at present in Mount Gambier and they hoped to form a branch there.

General Business.

It was reported that Mr. W. H. Ind, a past President of the Association had died recently, and it was decided that a letter of condolence be sent to his relatives.

Mr. Wicks said that the price of fruit trees had been fixed and the margin of profit was considerably less than previously. The extra writing involved in ticketing, etc., had placed a lot of extra work on the nurserymen.

Finance: The Secretary's financial statement was submitted to the meeting and received.

D.D.T. AND ITS USES.

A Correction.

On page 9 of the July "Fruit World" appeared a report of the Sth. Aust. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association, at which an address on "D.D.T. and its Uses" was given by Mr. A. G. Strickland, M.Ag.Sc.

The Association states that an error was made in reporting Mr. Strickland's remarks. In column 4, lines 4 to 9, should read:—

Sprayed with 0.1 per cent. D.D.T. as water suspension, 13 per cent. entries.

Sprayed with 0.1 per cent. D.D.T. on half schedule, 43 per cent. entries, every second spray omitted.

Sprayed with lead arsenate, full schedule 38 per cent. entries.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the South Australian Fruit Marketing Association was held at Adelaide on 20th July.

There were present: Messrs. J. B. Randall (Chairman), M. G. Basey, R. O. Knappstein, S. M. James, A. G. Strickland, P. R. B. Searcy, D. W. Hannaford, F. F. Redden, R. A. Cramond, H. N. Wicks, A. R. Willsmore, A. Brealey, L. G. Heading, R. G. Hannaford, L. J. Bishop, R. H. A. Lewis, and E. W. Mills (Secretary).

An apology was received from Mr. C. L. Winser.

Post War Export: The President reported that a meeting of the Country Cold Stores Association had been held, and the matter of forming one organisation to control the post war export had been discussed. The suggestion that the Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries should be the body was not approved, as the Constitution of the Chamber gives the merchants complete control and individual growers are not eligible for membership.

Mr. D. W. Hannaford, instructed by the Cold Stores Association, submitted a motion which was discussed for nearly two hours, the speakers being Messrs. P. R. B. Searcy, J. B. Randell, A. R. Willsmore, L. G. Bishop, R. A. Cramond, H. N. Wicks, L. G. Heading, F. F. Redden, A. Brealey, R. O. Knappstein. The motion was carried by a majority of grower voting members, but as the motion was found to be ambiguous, it was considered necessary to have a further meeting to clarify the position before calling a general meeting of members to deal with the position.

U.S.A. TREE CENSUS.

The National Apple Institute of U.S.A. is urging the U.S. Dept. of Agric. to make a detailed census of the Apple trees in the United States, in order to have a sound basis for post-war planning. Fruit-growers have offered to share in the cost of the undertaking. The last census was made in 1928.

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N.S.W. CITRUS.

Crops Light :: Much Rain Damage.

UNSUITABLE WEATHER conditions caused much damage to the 1945 crop.

In a review of the season, issued in mid-July by the chief of the N.S.W. Marketing Division (Dr. H. J. Hynes) the following is stated:

Substantial rains were received during June, particularly in coastal areas, but subsequently relatively fine weather prevailed.

A substantial percentage of the Navel crop in coastal areas has been harvested; generally, crops were light, but much of the fruit attained large size. A number of reporters state that heavy rains have affected keeping quality and that a fair amount of shedding has occurred. The Valencia crop for the most part is light, but the fruit is colouring and filling out satisfactorily in most instances.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

Gosford: Valencias, light; a second crop is growing satisfactorily. A second crop of Commons is coming on well and should be marketable by October.

Hawkesbury River: Oranges, light Main crop Lemons harvested. There is a good summer crop.

Kurrajong-Emu Plains: Navels harvested. Valencias light, but of good quality. Lemons light, but fruit sized nicely.

Parramatta-Camden: Valencias sizing well. Mandarins "scalded" through heavy rains.

Windsor: Heavy rain adversely affected Navels, but Valencias filling out nicely. Main crop Lemons being marketed. Intermediate crop heavy. Grapefruit falling badly.

Narromine: Navel crop better than anticipated. Valencias satisfactory: both show much off-season bloom. Lemons good. Grapefruit, average.

Murray River: Navels and Valencias, light; Valencias better than Navels; Lemons, medium; Grapefruit, light, but better than first anticipated. Widespread out-of-season flowering on all citrus trees. Scale troublesome.

Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas: Navels lighter than last year. Valencias normal. Commons being harvested. Lemons, light.

There was much damage to citrus around Wyong and in the Hills districts.

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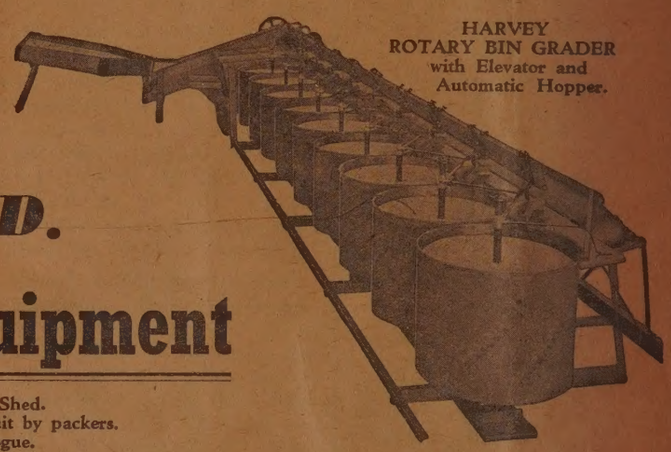

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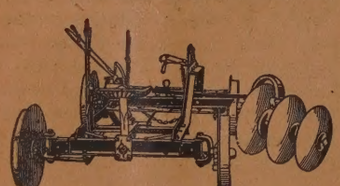

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Queensland News and Notes

EFFECT OF HEAVY RAINFALL ON FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CROPS — DOMESTIC DISTRIBUTION — FRUIT TRAINS — PRESENT AND LONG RANGE VIEW OF PINEAPPLE INDUSTRY — BANANA PRODUCTION AND RIPENING.

NORTH QUEENSLAND.—Heavy vegetable crops were marketed in the Far North, both on the Tableland and on the coastal area near Cairns until severe frosts in mid-July destroyed a substantial proportion of the crops. Considerable wastage had occurred with lines such as Lettuce and Cabbage, though most of the Cabbage that was dumped was grub infested. Growers are going through a period of adjustment following the loss of most of the Service outlet. It is hoped that the dairymen, maize, and tobacco, cane and other growers who responded to the call for increased production will now return to their usual vocations.

Tomatoes were particularly heavily oversupplied, but most of them were far from choice. The average far northern grower has still to learn that if he concentrated on quality and pack there are frequently remunerative markets open to him in the south for Tomatoes and Cucumbers. He must realise, too, that success on the local markets will now depend also on quality and pack. The days are past when anything would sell at high rates irrespective of quality.

Rainfall in the Cairns area has been very heavy.

In order to improve northern distribution, the Cairns branch of the C.O.D. commenced a road delivery service to retailers in towns south as far as Tully, 84 miles by rail from Cairns. The service promises to be very successful.

Construction is proceeding of the Banana ripening rooms and cool rooms in the Townsville branch of the C.O.D.

Heavy crops of Tomatoes and Cucumbers are being harvested in the Bowen and Home Hill districts, and recent rains should ensure a continuance of heavy cropping. The district has already experienced a case shortage which is being partly relieved by the C.O.D. branch distributing large quantities of secondhand cases from Brisbane, where secondhand case dealers are busy supplying an order for 57,000. This, incidentally, should solve the problem of the Secondhand Fruit cases Committee, which has faced a saturated secondhand case market, except with the 1½ bushel cases.

Central Queensland. — The Rockhampton district has experienced a long, severe drought, which was only recently relieved by heavy rains. Situated in this area is Yarwun, a large shipper of Tomatoes to Brisbane and Sydney. Until the recent rains, conditions were so dry that plantings for the Winter and Spring crops were seriously retarded.

South Queensland. — The effects of the heavy June rains are still being felt by the vegetable industry. Practically all greens have been short in Brisbane. A big percentage of the South Queensland Tomato crop was destroyed by the continued rains, but local deliveries to Brisbane are being supplemented from Bowen and Home Hill, with the result that the market is well stocked.

Beetroot and Cucumbers have been heavily oversupplied for some months.

Beans have sold readily at ceiling rates, but the bulk of them have been despatched on the fruit specials to Sydney and Melbourne, where ceiling prices are 1d. and 2d. per lb. respectively higher than Brisbane. **Rains early in July should ensure a heavy late crop of Beans, and there is every prospect of the crop proving a record one.**

Weather conditions interfered with logging operations, with the result that millers have had extreme difficulty in meeting the demand for cases. It was unfortunate that the heavy Bean loadings and the shortage of cases coincided with a flush in the Pineapple crop, preventing any relief being given Bean growers from mills normally supplying Bean centres.

Early in July the C.O.D. opened a wholesale/retail branch at Nambour, a town some 60 miles north of Brisbane. This venture was the result of pressure on the growers' organisation by the Nambour Progress Association and by neighbouring Fruitgrowers' Associations, who for a long time have protested bitterly at the unreasonably high retail rates charged locally for both fruit and vegetables. The branch was assured full public support from its commencement, and promises to have a bright future. It has an excellent display in the retail section, and will concentrate on case lots when supplies of fruit again become plentiful.

Pineapples: The early Winter crop which proved heavier than anticipated, kept canneries occupied to the extent of their available labour for a month. At one stage it appeared that cannery loadings would have to be restricted owing to the quantities coming forward exceeding the canneries' capacity. Some thousands of cases of fruit were carried over each week, but fortunately the weather remained mild and only a small amount of fruit was lost. It is not usual to carry over Pineapples, which are subject to the rapid development of "Blackheart" in the cooler months and fermentation in the Summer.

The crop has eased temporarily, and it is anticipated that further heavy loadings will be received towards the end of August and in September. Indications are that the continuation of the voluntary diversion scheme will ensure existing Service orders being met.

Post-war Pineapple Prospects: The Pineapple Sectional Group Committee, has lately given considerable attention to the post-war development of the Pineapple industry.

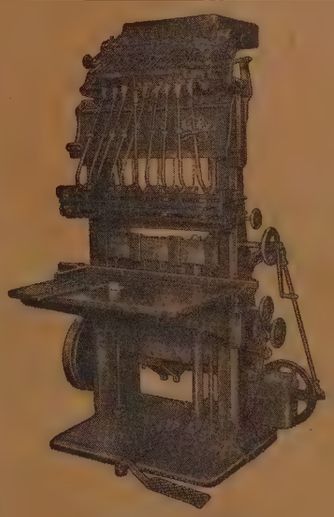
The Committee is faced with the prospect of considerably increased production immediately conditions become more normal, and with the possibility that a number of returned servicemen will take up Pineapple farming.

There has been a considerable widening in cultural knowledge among growers in recent years. Returned servicemen will be able to take advantage of modern production methods, and the risk of cultural failure such as occurred after the 1914/18 war will be reduced to a minimum.

The problem will be to find markets for the additional production when it eventuates, consequently the Committee is planning an intensive drive to fully expand the sales of fresh and canned Pineapples in Australasia. There seems little doubt that domestic consumption can be greatly increased providing adequate marketing methods are adopted.

The Committee is not so happy about the export position, although it would appear that a favourable export market will exist for a year or so. Malaya (Singapore) before the war, supplied most of the British imports of canned Pineapple, but the extent of damage, if any, to the industry there is unknown. It is, however, fairly certain that the Malayans will make every effort to restore their former predominant position on the British markets. As they were able to sell at prices at which Queensland could not compete, although her product was superior, it is evident that a prospective revival of competition from Malaya must be taken into serious account.

On the other hand, there is some doubt whether Hawaii will continue to limit output as was done from 1932 to the outbreak of war. This policy had a beneficial effect on world prices, and it cannot be doubted that it encouraged the increased production by Hawaii's competitors, which manifested itself in 1938 and 1939. This



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QUEENSLAND NEWS AND NOTES
(Continued)

was largely responsible for the sharp decline in world prices in those years.

Queensland production for some years will be insufficient to justify large scale export, however favourable prices may be. Consequently, any attempts to exploit export markets will develop into a production race with Malaya, Hawaii and other producers.

As it is doubtful whether Queensand production costs can rival those of her competitors, **there is every prospect that growers expanding production in anticipation of profitable export markets will be bitterly disappointed unless the imperial preferences are increased to give Queensland producers adequate protection.**

Pineapple growers have very bitter memories of their experiences prewar, when they were encouraged to increase production in anticipation of profitable export markets which did not materialise. Over a period of ten years from 1932, export losses ranged up to 2/10 per dozen. Over £70,000 was paid in export assistance by the F.I.S.C.C., while the growers provided £27,000 by levies deducted from the price of their fruit to provide for export losses in excess of the F.I.S.C.C. annual grants.

Serious as these losses were, the major losses resulted from the depression of the fresh fruit markets owing to the increased quantities of fruit consigned for sale when the canneries were unable to process further quantities due to the exhaustion of the funds provided to meet export losses. The reaction of these conditions upon the growers' economic position was felt particularly severely by growers farming modest areas and who were not primarily responsible for the increased production. The depressed conditions very effectively prevented these growers from improving their efficiency which could not be achieved without financial stability.

As a result of representation by growers' Associations, the Pineapple Sectional Group Committee has prepared proposals for submission to the Queensland Minister for Agriculture **which call for the planned production of Pineapples** in relation to the Australian needs. It is recommended that legislation should be effected that would enable the industry to declare a domestic quota for each grower and to provide that excess production should be exported.

If this measure is secured, the industry's domestic market would be insulated against the reaction of unprofitable export, but no hindrance would be placed in the way of those growers who would be prepared to produce excess quantities for export. This should give a considerable amount of economic security to growers, including those returned servicemen who might settle in the industry.

Without some plan to relate production to known market needs, the Committee is very pessimistic that the next few years will see a repetition of the returned soldiers' settlement failures of the last war, together with a period of acute difficulty for the established growers.

Bananas: The acute shortage of labour, fertilizers, tools, spray pumps and weed killer, etc., which could have been expected to result in a lowering of the general quality of Bananas in Queensland has been more than compensated for by a mild and favourable Winter. A definite improvement is noticeable in the size and general quality of the Winter fruit as a result.

Unfortunately, rust infestation has been severe, and has extended to South Coast areas, where previously it was either unknown or relatively mild.

It is anticipated that production for the year 1945/46 will show a definite increase on that of the previous year. This, combined with a probable increase in N.S.W. production and a gradual return to normal of consumer buying power, may again confront the industry with the problem of over-production.

HOME PRESERVATION OF FRUIT JUICES.

The preservation of fruit juices in the home is quite practicable with little more than the usual kitchen equipment, and will enable use to be made of these health-giving beverages during out-of-season periods, points out a pamphlet just issued by the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture. Because of their vitamin and mineral content and general alkaline reaction in the body, the daily consumption of fruit juices is being increasingly advocated by medical authorities and nutrition specialists. A 50 per cent. retention of vitamin C can reasonably be expected in juices preserved in the home by the methods described.

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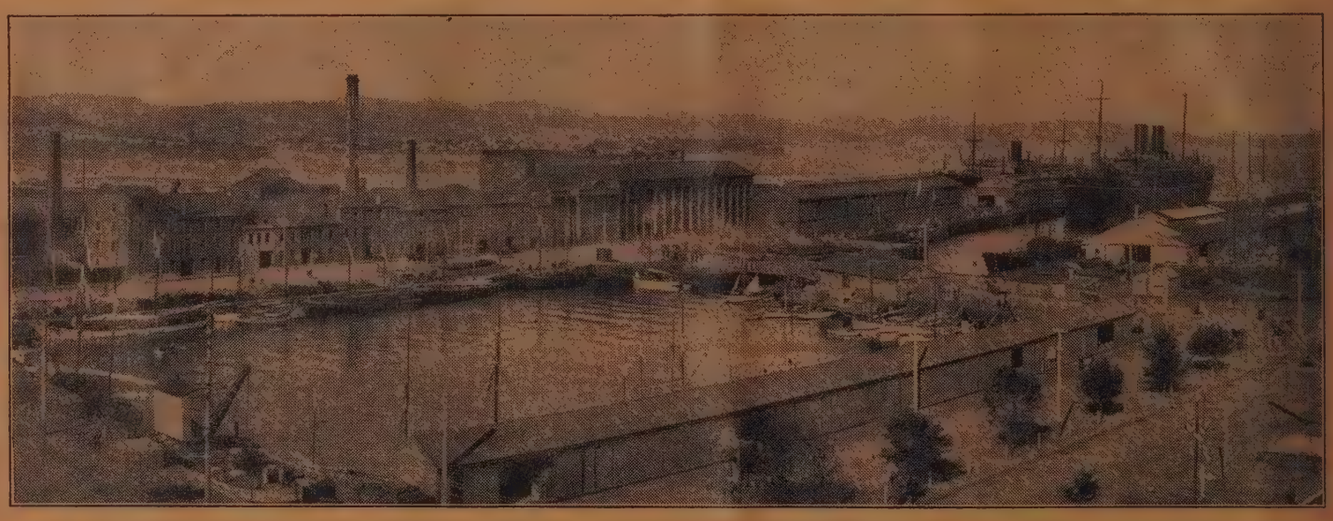

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Goulburn Valley News and Notes

(By Our Correspondent.)

ANNUAL MEETING OF NORTHERN VICTORIA FRUITGROWERS' ASSOCIATION — SHORTAGE OF FERTILIZER AND LABOUR CAUSE ORCHARD DETERIORATION — CANNED FRUIT STATISTICS — BETTER TREES NEEDED FROM NURSERYMEN — INCREASED WATER CHANNELS AND GROWERS' PRIORITIES — DRIED TREE FRUITS — LOSS OF DEPARTMENTAL SCIENTISTS — A.W.U. AWARDS.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Northern Victoria Fruit Growers' Association was held in Kyabram on June 29. Mr. W. Young occupied the chair and delegates were present from Tongala, Bamawm, Kyabram, Lancaster, Tatura, Shepparton and Ardmona Fruit Growers' Associations.

Election of officers resulted in the appointment of the following:—President: Mr. W. Young. Vice-President: Mr. N. W. Fairless. Secretary: Mr. S. P. Cornish. Executive Committee: Messrs. W. Cooper, N. W. Fairless, S. P. Cornish.

Pear Committee: Messrs. O. Young (Ardmona), R. Roberts (Shepparton), J. Sinclair (Bamawm), F. Clayton (Kyabram).

Concern was expressed regarding the marked deterioration of fruit trees due to the serious shortage of orchard labour.

Owing to war conditions and the comparatively small pack last year. The demand for canned fruits was greater than supply, and once again canners at the commencement of the season's pack had no stocks unsold.

Although the sale to Britain was not to be compared to pre-war shipments, it was a pleasing indication of the maintaining of interest. Unfortunately the possibility of this fruit actually reaching the public seems remote.

The annual report presented by the Secretary (Mr. S. P. Cornish) stated that distribution to the Australian market was approximately one-third of the pack. It is understood that a similar release will be made within Australia from the past season's pack.

Due to droughty conditions, and the necessity for using a minimum of water, many growers found it difficult to get their fruit up to the cannery size: this was accentuated by labour problems.

Undersized fruit naturally had its effect on the canned fruit pack; which proved to approximate closely in the aggregate, to that of the pack for 1943.

Detailed comparisons with previous years are as follows (figures in cases, each 2 doz. 30 oz. cans):—

Apricots: 1938, 380,082; 1942, 181,073; 1943, 215,610; 1944, 327,946; 1945, 138,631.

Peaches: 1938, 1,790,742; 1942, 1,848,073; 1943, 1,158,341; 1944, 1,377,768; 1945, 1,327,308.

Pears: 1938, 860,104; 1942, 595,076; 1943, 708,603; 1944, 602,200; 1945, 614,566.

Total: 1938, 3,030,928; 1942, 2,125,042; 1943, 2,082,554; 1944, 2,307,914; 1944, 2,080,505.

The supply of labour for fruit harvesting operations during the past season was reasonably satisfactory, although the quality was not so good as that supplied for the 1943-44 season, as without the assistance of the manpower authorities it would have been impossible to harvest the crops, it is not desired to criticise unduly those who are responsible for the supply of labour.

For the general work on the orchards, other than fruit harvesting, there is a serious labour shortage and a marked deterioration of the trees is now apparent. The attention of the manpower has been drawn to this difficulty, but without result.

Better Fruit Trees.

Representations have been made to the Minister for Agriculture, with a view to an improvement in the quality of the fruit trees supplied by nurserymen.

This is a difficult problem, as it appears practically impossible to adopt grade standards, that is size and diameter of trees, as an indication of its quality and all too little is yet known about the best kinds of stock to use.

It is suggested that a system of bud selection should be the basis for improvement; trees could be selected and certified to by Departmental Officers as being true to type, variety, heavy bearers and good growers. From these selected trees, buds should be taken for working. A Bill is now in course of preparation to deal with the matter.

Water Rights Priorities.

A deputation had waited on the Minister of Water Supply (Mr. McDonald), with two requests: (1) The duplication of the Waranga Channel, and (2) the right of the irrigators in the older irrigation districts adjacent to the water storages to have a prior right in application for increased water rights.

The reply of the Minister was very favourable to both requests, and a definite assurance was given that the opportunity to take additional water rights would be given in the first place to the irrigators in the districts adjacent to the water storages.

Dried Tree Fruits.

It was also reported that the 1944 production of dried tree fruits was considerably in excess of that of the previous year. The Victorian pack rose from 566 tons to 733 tons, an increase of 177 tons, whilst the Commonwealth total also showed an increase of 1,300 tons.

All fruit of suitable quality was taken by the various Services. Civilian releases were limited to lower grades. The main exception was a small tonnage of Prunes, which were made available by the Government for the use of infants.

Prices showed a slight increase, which was approved by the Prices Commissioner in view of the increased costs of production.

The cessation of hostilities in Europe and the expected end of the war against Japan in the not too distant future, focuses attention on the post-war position of dried tree fruits. It is logical to expect at least the competition experienced before the war on the British market, and it cannot be too strongly stressed that an improvement in the quality of our product is essential, if we are to have our share of the overseas market.

Fruit Industry Award.

Mr. S. P. Cornish, Secretary, stated that the Australian Workers' Union had twice appeared before the Court, seeking a variation of the award governing the fruit industry.

The industry is now regulated by an award made in December 1, 1939, and which has been varied from time to time. The subject matter for the new dispute includes increased rates of pay and the claims have been made, not only upon present respondents, but upon many others who are not bound by any award.

These claims raised the question of the Court's jurisdiction to alter the present rates because of the limits set by the economic regulations.

Counsel for the Union argued that the rates at present in force were anomalous, but this view was not upheld by the Court, who, in consequence, had no jurisdiction to vary the present rates and conditions.

Poor Pay Blamed for Loss of Experts.

It was reported of Mr. L. W. Miller, assistant entomologist, Dept. of Agric., who had worked for six years on the codling moth of William Pears of the Goulburn Valley, had resigned as he was accepting the position of entomologist in the Tasmanian Department of Agriculture at a higher salary.

The Association again made strong application to the Victorian Government in connection with the loss of trained personnel from the biological branch.

It is astonishing to find that seven plant pathologists and entomologists from a total staff of eleven, have left the biologist branch over the past ten years, the Secretary stated in his report.

It is understood these resignations are due to inadequate remunerations. So far the Association had no information indicating that the position was being rectified. Victoria seemed to be the training ground for the benefit of other States.

The month of July has been damp and extremely cold, with extremely heavy frosts, which retarded all growth and were particularly severe on stock and freshly shorn sheep.

The tar distillate spray has been completed under difficult conditions on account of the wet.

Many growers are backward with their pruning owing to the shortage of experienced pruners.

The canneries are being kept busy processing Carrots for the forces.

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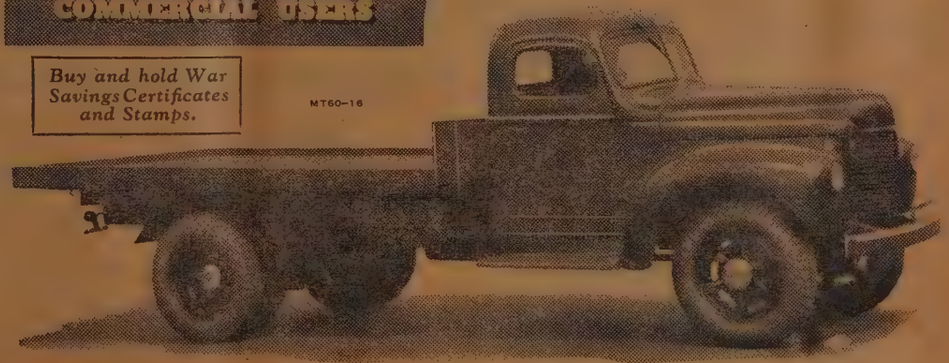

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N.S.W. Apple and Pear Growers' Association

THE REPORT of the Annual Conference of the N.S.W. Apple and Pear Growers' Association published in our last issue, contained only brief reference to the report by the chairman, Mr. W. B. Pascoe.

As this report (for the year ended June 30, 1945) is of considerable interest, a summary is published hereunder

The season 1944/5 will always be remembered as one of the worst in our history. The drought resulted in the smallest crop of Apples on record in N.S.W. Pears were not affected so much, although the crop was lighter than last year, but other deciduous fruits such as Plums and dessert Peaches were practically wiped out.

Ceiling Prices: The first conference with the Prices Branch early in January, resulted in a promise that the existing ceiling of 27/- for Apples and 28/- Pears would not be altered without our views being sought, and in any case not at all, unless rain fell in the Apple-producing districts. If every case of Apples realised 27/-, the net return to the grower would not compensate him for losses through drought; even at £5 per case, most growers' incomes would be less than last year. Government policy is not in favour of high prices to the public, so that an adequate return could only be considered in the terms of a subsidy, a course we did not wish to follow.

To cover cold storage charges, etc., we recommended monthly increases of 2/- from June until November, but at a recent conference in Canberra, we were told that this figure was considered excessive. However, an assurance was given that charges involved with cold storage would be covered in an announcement which will be made from Canberra.

In all matters of price fixation we have kept in close contact with the Victorian growers, and we intend to pursue this policy.

Apple Boycott: The action of the Fruit Shopkeepers' Association in instituting a boycott on Apples, had some effect on the negotiations for ceiling prices. The boycott was an unlawful and unsatisfactory way of dealing with a problem connected with the weight of Apples in cases as was shown by the conference convened by the Minister for Agriculture. The working Committee arrived at decisions which will obviate any necessity for protests from retailers, by the simple formula of average weights for the different varieties and sizes of Apples. The retailer will pay only for the weight in the case, thus maintaining a margin of profit on all types of cases.

Enough has already been said of the boycott, but I will always remember the solidarity of the growers in this crisis.

Docket System: After so many attempts to bring about the introduction of a docket system at the City Markets, we seem to be much nearer the goal than at any other period. Mr. Enticknap and I represented the Association at a conference of interested parties convened by the Hon. E. H. Graham, Minister for Agriculture, the Minister stating very definitely that it was his intention to introduce a duplicate docket system at the earliest opportunity. Plans are now being prepared by the Department requiring agents to record all transactions on duplicate dockets.

Hail Damage Insurance: The only satisfactory scheme is one whereby all growers must contribute, and as a number of districts are not in favour of this scheme, it has been decided to discontinue our efforts.

Primary Producers' Council: An invitation from the P.P.C. to attend a meeting at which the British Farmers' Delegation was present, was accepted. The question of forming a Commonwealth organisation of Apple and Pear Growers is one for discussion, together with the further question of joining the Primary Producers' Council.

Compensation Under Acquisition: Although representations have been made to the Minister for Commerce asking for separate consideration to be given our claims, we can expect nothing further until the Full Court gives a decision on the case.

A.W.U.: Early this year, the A.W.U. filed a log embodying numerous alterations to the Award. It was necessary to bring witnesses from various districts to Sydney in time to appear before Judge O'Mara, of the Arbitration Court on January 31. Some minor alterations were agreed upon, but the Judge is to determine a number of additional matters upon which we submitted evidence.

Frankston Show: The Mornington Peninsular Pastoral Agricultural and Horticultural Society is holding its first show at Frankston on October 27. Classes include horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry, horticulture and farm produce. The Secretary is Mr. G. Arthur, Box 25, Frankston, Vic.

The new bride was studying about which kind of Apples to buy, and finally she told the clerk: "I want some Apples for my husband."

"Yes, ma'am," replied the clerk accommodatingly, "and what kind would you like?"

The bride, blushing, "Er-a-I-ah, don't suppose you happen to know what sort Eve used?"

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Australian Dried Fruits

INTERESTING REVIEW BY A.D.F.A.

THE 1945 CROP of Australian Currants, Sultanas and Lexias is now estimated to be 66,500 tons. This is 37,700 tons below the record crop of last year and is the lowest yield for the past nine years.

The foregoing statement was made by Mr. H. D. Howie, O.B.E., Acting Chairman of the Commonwealth Dried Fruits Control Board.

Continuing, Mr. Howie said the main cause of the decrease was the short supply of fertilizers. Other contributing causes were frosts and dust laden winds from drought areas.

The severe reductions of supplies for the Australian Services and civil consumption, also for export, are regretted.

The Australian Dried Fruits Association has put up a strong case for increased supplies of fertilizers.

The foregoing information is contained in the June issue of the Australian Dried Fruits News just to hand. Many other interesting items are also included. Here are some of them:

A delegation from the A.D.F.A., Messrs. H. D. Howie, P. Malloch, J. H. Gordon and H. R. Jones, visited Western Australia to confer with growers and packers there regarding the W.A. claim for higher payment for their high quality Currants. Possibly a 5-crown grade will be created: the matter will be discussed with the Commerce Department.

Much appreciation is expressed for the cordiality of the W.A. folk: their long continued helpfulness is greatly esteemed. Plans are being made for enlarging the W.A. executive — six growers and four packers.

A.D.F.A. Management Board.

The report of the last meeting of the Board of Management of the A.D.F.A. is full of interest. It is recorded that representations to the Taxation authorities had resulted in a decision to allow a 5 per cent. depreciation on racks and trellises and for drainage to be recognised as an allowable deduction.

The problem of the reduction in size of Lexias and Walthams is to be investigated by the C.S.I.R. This reduction may be due to lack of manures: a modification of pruning practice may also be necessary.

Regarding meteorological service, the appointment of a trained observer for the Murray areas is recommended.

A new exploding bird scarer has been devised. The Mildura Co-op. will make these. Particulars are obtainable from the Secretary, A.D.F.A., Mr. W. N. Sumner, 46 Queen-street, Melbourne.

Owing to the short crop this season a case for assistance to growers via the Prices Branch, or by way of subsidy, has been presented to the authorities.

The insuring of fruit during transit from growers' premises to packing house is recommended.

The Loxton (S. Aust.) Producers' Ltd. had been registered for dried fruit packing. The manager is Mr. W. Mawby. It was noted that the S. Aust. Government had a plan for opening up some 10,000 acres—3,000 acres for citrus and 3,000 acres for tree fruits, and the balance for other forms of production.

Regarding future policy, the Board reaffirmed the evidence given before the Rural Reconstruction Commission —that any expansion of plantings shall have due regard to marketing potentials, and the continued stability of the industry.

The Prune Industry.

A few years ago growers were in a parlous condition, receiving little more than a penny a lb. for their fruit. To-day the industry has been organised on co-operative lines, is affiliated with the A.D.F.A., and growers' returns have multiplied eight-fold.

Mr. T. A. Tester, secretary of the Prune Growers' Co-operative Union of N.S.W., tells an interesting story of the early struggles and final success: components are the Irrigation Co-op. Society Ltd., and the Young District Producers' Co-op.

Other matters dealt with include: — **Development of Australian resources** —the basis of a planned economy; Relative merits of **Potassium Carbonate** (by C. E. Orton, B.Sc., Senior Research Officer, C.S.I.R. Station, Merbein); **The Australian Lexia Crop** (by H. D. Howie, O.B.E.); **Fertility of Sultana Buds** (by A. V. Lyon, M.Ag.Sc.), a consideration of a modified pruning system; **Regulation of the Flow of the River Murray**—report of Commission, and items relative to State Boards, and reafforestation.

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The obituary notices refer with deep regret to the deaths of two who had rendered great service to the industry.

Mr. W. P. Caro, appraiser of Australian dried fruits in London.

Mr. F. McGlasson, manager of the Red Cliffs Co-operative Packing Co.

Personal.

Mr. R. H. Gilbert, Chairman of the Commonwealth Dried Fruits Export Control Board was abroad visiting Canada, U.S.A. and England. Mr. H. D. Howie, O.B.E., was acting chairman during Mr. Gilbert's absence.

Manpower: Appreciation is expressed in the report for the co-operation of Manpower authorities in ensuring that sufficient labour was available. In response to representations seeking definite higher priority assurances, it was learned that certain industrial priorities no longer existed, and each essential industry is considered on its merits.

Overseas Tariff Preferences: Arising out of the implications of the Atlantic Charter and the Mutual Aid Agreement fears had been entertained that some of the existing dried fruit preferences might be curtailed. After official representations had been made, however, a reassuring reply had been received from the British Prime Minister.

Publicity Yields Results.

Satisfaction is expressed in the report regarding the success of the policy of continued publicity even in war years—and this in spite of proposals from within the industry for publicity to be curtailed or eliminated. Thus advertising was continued, for a period on a modified scale, but all the time building up funds for more vigorous publicity when needed. The wisdom of this policy was evidenced in 1944, when, with a record pack and the needs of the fighting services had been met, there remained a greater quantity of dried fruit than ever previously available.

With their staff and methods intact, vigorous publicity methods were employed with satisfactory results.

To quote just one instance: There was an unprecedented demand for their cookery book, necessitating the printing of an additional 100,000 copies.

It is stated that the best proof of the effectiveness of the work is afforded by the gradual increase in the local consumption of dried fruits since the establishment of the Interstate Publicity Committee in 1929.

General.

The report contains the financial statement and statistical records. The personnel of the Board was: Messrs. Parker J. Moloney (Chairman), F. M. Read, M.Ag.Sc. (Deputy Chairman), S. R. Mansell, H. V. Davey, A. Rawlings, D. A. Cockroft and D. E. Barry Wood (growers' representatives). During the absence of the Secretary (Brig. W. E. Cremor) on military duties, excellent service had been rendered by Mrs. E. M. Suffern, acting Secretary, J. E. S. Bates, statistical officer, and other staff members.

VICTORIAN DRIED FRUITS BOARD.

A THOROUGH SURVEY of the whole position relative to dried fruit production and marketing, before any extension of planting is contemplated, is urged by the Victorian Dried Fruits Board in its annual report (for year ended December, 1944), just to hand.

It is pointed out that the handling of a record Australian crop of over 104,000 tons was largely influenced by war factors. This production figure was an all-time record, as was also the Victorian production of dried vine fruits, 59,360 tons. The quantity of dried tree fruits (excluding Apples) was 733 tons, making a total Victorian figure of 60,093 tons. The Australian production of dried tree fruits in 1944 was 6,023 tons, being an increase of 1,300 tons above the previous year. The fighting services had first priority for all dried fruits.

JUST take a look through this long-range telescope and see yourself next season! How's your tractor running? Wish you'd had it overhauled a few months ago? Well, there's still time.

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Propagating Fruit Trees

CHERRIES — CITRUS.
PEACHES — APRICOTS — PLUMS — PRUNES — ALMONDS —

FRUIT TREE STOCKS formed the subject of an interesting statement recently by Mr. D. Fitzpatrick, Senior Orchardist at the Hawkesbury, N.S.W., Agricultural College.

Peaches.

Except under extraordinary conditions, seedling Peach stocks have proved superior to all others for Peach trees, stated Mr. Fitzpatrick.

Pits from both mid-season and late varieties may be stored until the spring. Apart from the additional time in storage, the pits of very early varieties not infrequently contain shrivelled or jelly-like kernels and fail to germinate.

The pits are sown in drills to a depth of 2 to 3 inches, and, as some will fail to germinate the first year, it is sound practice to sow the seed thickly, later thinning out the seedlings to 6 to 8 inches apart, according to the amount of space available. The pits may be allowed to germinate while stratified in the boxes of sand, and the germinated seed then planted and watered-in well. A supplementary bed sown at the same time might be useful for filling misses.

During the growing season, and while the seedlings are in a sappy condition, say, to a height of 9 inches, side shoots or laterals should be removed in order to provide a clean, smooth stem to facilitate budding operations. On no account, however, should leaves be rubbed from the stem at this stage, as they protect the tender bark from the sun's rays.

Apricots.

Where soil conditions are right, Apricot seedlings make the best stock for Apricots. Peach stock is, however, suitable for sandy situations. On very damp or clayey soils, Myrobolan Plum is the only stock which is likely to be effective; it may be grown from pits or cuttings, which strike very readily. The method of working is the same as for Peaches.

Plums.

The stocks chiefly favoured for the propagation of Plums are Myrobolan and Marianna. The Myrobolan is propagated from both cuttings and pits, but the Marianna, which strikes very readily from cuttings, is mostly propagated in this manner.

Myrobolan has proved supperior to Marianna as a stock for European Plums in our inland districts, but for Japanese varieties the Marianna stock is generally better.

Towards the end of winter, cuttings are prepared from strong yearling growth. These should be about 12 inches long, and vary from ¼ inch to ⅝ inch in thickness at the base. Cuts are made quite close to buds, as "die-back" is likely to originate in lengthy stubs. Many hold the opinion that when the lower cut is made in a sloping direction and more cambium exposed, a better rooting system at the base is obtained.

On some classes of sandy soil, especially on the coast, Peach seedling has proved itself to be a suitable root stock for Plums. In working the "T-bud" method is used as with Peaches and Apricots.

Prunes and Almonds.

Prunes in practically every respect, are treated in a similar manner to Plums and the stocks in use are mainly Myrobolan and Marianna. Myrobolan has proved to be generally the most satisfactory.

Almonds are treated as stone-fruits, and are supplied by nurserymen on Almond and Peach stocks.

Stocks for Cherries.

The chief stocks upon which Cherries are worked are Kentish and Mazzard.

As a rule varieties do not grow into such large trees on Kentish stock as when worked on Mazzard. On poor light soils this dwarfing effect on the Kentish stock becomes too pronounced; moreover, trees on over-light soils are liable to blow over.

On the other hand, however, on rich deep soils of a heavier nature, a partial dwarfing is an advantage, as otherwise the trees are liable to grow too large for economical handling.

But the class of soil is by no means the only deciding factor, as most varieties will come into profitable cropping sooner on the Kentish than on Mazzard stock. This earlier return is a most important factor to the young orchardist with limited capital.

Citrus.

Oranges, Mandarins, Lemons, etc., may be grown from seeds or layers. Cuttings do not strike readily unless special facilities in the shape of propagating frames, and control of bottom heat and humidity, are available for varieties such as Oranges and Mandarins.

Propagation by budding varieties on to seedling stocks is most generally used, and is the most satisfactory method of raising large numbers of trees rapidly.

Seeds for raising stocks should be obtained from the most vigorous or largest rough Lemon, sweet Orange or Poncirus trifoliata seedling trees.

MANUFACTURE OF APPLE SAUCE.

Small Apples Now Used in U.S.A.

When American troops came to Australia a new product was demanded—Apple sauce. The Apple and Pear Board, in co-operation with fruit processors, principally in Tasmania, set about the manufacture of this product. The specifications of the U.S.A. Army authorities were fulfilled and the product was entirely satisfactory.

As Apples of normal size were used, it is now of interest to note that in U.S.A. a way has been found of using small Apples not usually marketed or processed.

In the experiments the sauce was prepared without peeling or coring the Apples: the fruit was sliced in three pieces directly above and below the seed cells. The cooking lasted half an hour and the sauce was forced through a machine on the principle of a kitchen colander. Considerable time and energy were saved, with better flavour and nutritive qualities.

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The Chamber is prepared to receive Consignments in Bulk lots for distribution to any of these Agents. No charge will be made to the Grower for this service. Further particulars from the Secretary, E. B. P. BROOKS, Exchange Chambers, Turbot Street, Brisbane. Telegraphic Address: "Chamberfruit," B'ne.

PINEAPPLES.

The summer crop of Pineapples for 1945 was completed on April 30, a total of 435,485 cases compared with the estimate of 468,000 by growers early in the year. In the same period of 1944, 425,222 cases were harvested. The crop this year was of an abnormal nature as the heaviest pickings were from the third week in March to the end of April. This is unusual as usually the summer crop is harvested from the third week of February to the end of March.

Service needs this year again absorbed the bulk of the cannery output, and so that these orders could be supplied as fully as possible, growers agreed to a diversion of Pineapples from the markets during the normal cannery period of approximately 50 per cent. of the fruit, most of which would have otherwise been consigned to interstate markets. As a result of this, the industry has already processed sufficient canned Pineapple to meet half the Service orders placed for 1945. As there is every prospect of a good winter crop during the early spring months, there should be no difficulty in fulfilling Service orders in full.

DONATIONS FOR RED CROSS.

Ross, Tasmania.

The Ross Branch (Tas.) of the Australian Red Cross, reports that donations for the financial year just ended, reached a figure of £3/4/- per head of the population! Their municipality is small, with a scattered population of less than 500 people and Ross members are feeling justly proud.

WAR FACTS IN BRIEF.

From Pearl Harbour to the end of 1944, Australia supplied United States servicemen in the South-West Pacific Area with approximately 2,000,000,000 lb. of food covering 300 commodities.

With the Labuan-Brunei Bay (Borneo) invasion, Australian Army forces re-entered the South China Sea for the first time since Singapore.

About 500 servicemen were nominated among the 1,700-odd candidates for Britain's general elections on July 5. Most of them were from the Army although sailors and airmen were included.

The Dutch Press Agency, Aneta, reports an official decision to send 100,000 men, including three divisions from Europe to fight the Japanese.

In 1944 alone, Australia, apart from commitments, elsewhere, supplied United States forces in the Pacific with 1,137,000 lb. of food, or enough subsistence to feed an army of 550,000 men for a year.

A new incendiary bomb developed for use against Japan is officially known as "M74," weighs 10 lb. and burns with an intensely hot flame very difficult to extinguish.

Up to May 31, 1945, there were 92,211 casualties, including 21,4 fatal in Australia's Navy, Army, and Air Force. This total included repatriated and escaped prisoners of war.

Vegetable Grower

WEEDING CARROTS BY SPRAYING.

Success in South Australia.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS in the control of weeds among Carrots are reported by Mr. H. Schultz, of Ashton, South Australia. Power kerosene was advocated at the rate of one gallon to 4 rods. In misgauging the quantities in the first trial, and using the gallon on 2 rods only, such weeds as Fat Hen and Prince of Wales Feather quickly disappeared, and so also did some of the Carrots. Then, with more accurate spraying, well rooted weeds up to 5 inches in height were destroyed with only a minimum of burning among the Carrots. In a subsequent test, the spraying of power kerosene on Parsnips was tried; but hot weather immediately followed, and many of the Parsnips perished. Mr. Schultz said that on enquiry at the oil company he found there were two qualities of power kerosene for spraying—good and bad. On payment of an extra ½d. per gallon, a suitable drum of kerosene was selected, the results being wholly satisfactory. "As regards costs," states Mr. Schultz, "to spray a rod I estimate to cost not more than 6d., including time and kerosene. To hand weed a rod I would not estimate the cost, but I know whether growers would prefer to weed a rod of Carrots for 6d., or pay 6d. to have them weeded."

VICTORIAN POTATOES.

Potato contracts received by the Victorian Dept. of Agric. for the year 1944-45 cover an area of approximately 94,762 acres, planted by 8,926 growers. The Government Statist's returns show that of the above contract area, approximately 84,000 acres was planted.

Deliveries, 1944-45.

Deliveries of Potatoes during June approximated 26,666 tons, of which 5,362 tons were of stock-food grade. This makes the total deliveries to date 126,003 tons. It is estimated that over 100,000 tons of marketable tubers still remain on farms.

Contracts 1945-46.

Applications for contracts received to June 30th slightly exceeded 40,000 acres from approximately 3,700 growers. The target area for 1945-46 planting in Victoria is 86,000 acres. July 15th was the closing date for receipt of applications.

Prices.

No subsidies are now payable on No. 2 or No. 3 grade. Sales have been made at prices ranging from £3/10/- to £6 per ton.

The price of No. 1 grade is £12/10/- per ton. The maximum price of stock food Potatoes has now been fixed at £3/10/- per ton to growers at loading stations.

N.S.W. POTATO CONTRACTS, 1945-46.

Price £14 per ton.

The N.S.W. Department of Agriculture advises that Potato growers who desire to complete contracts in respect of the early crop may obtain the necessary forms from the local Agricultural Instructor or Fruit Inspector, or direct from the Department of Agriculture, Box 36A, G.P.O., Sydney, or the Australian Potato Committee, 263 Castlereagh-street, Sydney. Contracts may also be obtained from local Potato merchants and agents.

The contract price is the same as last year, viz., £14 per ton for New and No. 1 Grades. The Australian Potato Committee states that a premium will not be paid during the current season for Potatoes delivered early, as was done last season.

N.Z. FRUITGROWERS' FEDERATION.

The 29th annual Conference of the N.Z. Fruitgrowers' Federation Ltd. will be held at Wellington on August 8, 9 and 10. Provincial conferences were held in various parts of the Dominion during July. A lengthy agenda paper has been prepared. The annual report states that the arrangement entered into with the Government in 1944 for the disposal of that year's crop was continued, with minor alterations in 1945.

HORSE SENSE.

Boss: "So you want to quit, eh? Don't we pay you enough?"

Laborer: "Oh, the pay's all right, I guess, but I'm afraid I'm cheating some horse out of a job."

"The familiar query of the past at the tea table, 'One lump or two?' is not heard nowadays." But it may be revived at any moment by the gas producer.

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Market Notes and Prices

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Sydney (1/8/45).

The State Marketing Bureau reports as follows:—

The market for Apples was very firm at the ceiling level of 28/-, owing to the limited supplies coming forward. The Tasmanian shipment comprised Sturmers, Croftons, Democrats and Granny Smiths, while from other interstate, sources, Rome Beautics, Jonathans, Statesman, Rokewoods, Cleopatras, London and Stone Pippins and a few Delicious were forward.

Demand for Pears was very satisfactory and prices for choice packs were firm. Victorian supplies included Packham's Triumph, Josephine, Winter Cole and Winter Nelis. The ceiling price of 29/- was paid for selected counts of the three first-mentioned varieties and up to 27/- for Winter Nelis. Consignments of Packham's from local sources were mainly "good" grade packs and these lines were offered at relatively low rates.

Current prices were:—Apples, interstate: Jonathan, Rome Beauty, Rokewood, Statesman, Cleopatra, Sturmer, Granny Smith, Crofton and Democrat, 28/-. Pears, Victorian: Packham's Triumph and Josephine, 24/- to 29/-; Winter Cole, 20/- to 29/-; Winter Nelis, 20/- to 27/- (very small sizes and inferior lines lower). Oranges, Navel: Coastal and Irrigation Area, Counts 64 and upwards 12/6 to 16/-. Lemons: Coastal 10/- to 15/-, occasional sales to 18/-. Mandarins, Emperor, 10/- to 20/-, specials to 25/- per bushel case. Bananas, 7d. per lb., under grade and inferior lower (weight 80 to 96 lb. per case). Passionfruit, 12/- to 25/-, few specials to 30/-. Custard Apples, 10/- to 20/-. Avocados, 10/- to 20/ per half case. Strawberries, Queensland, 12/- to 30/- per dozen packets; 5/- to 10/-, occasional specials higher, per tray. Papaws, 20/- to 35/-. Pineapples, 21/3, under weight and very small fruit lower, per tropical case.

Vegetables.

Peas, 23/4. Beans, 25/- per bushel (nominal). Cabbages, 8/- to 24/-, few to 30/-. Cauliflowers, 8/- to 30/-, choice large to 36/- per dozen. Lettuce, 16/- to 25/- per case. Carrots, 3/- to 6/- per dozen bunches; per cwt. basis, 18/- to 22/-, choice washed to 25/-, inferior lower. Parsnips, 4/- to 6/- per dozen bunches; per cwt. basis, 15/- to 28/-. White Turnips, 5/- to 7/-. Rhubarb, 10/- to 15/-, few 18/. Spinach, 12/- to 18/-. Celery (local), 12/- to 24/-. Mint, 4/- to 6/. Parsley, 24/- to 48/-. Radishes, 3/- to 4/-. Beetroot, 3/- to 5/- per dozen bunches. Tomatoes (N.S.W.), 8/- to 14/-, occasional choice coloured to 18/-; Queensland, 7/- to 12/-, choice coloured to 14/-; repacked (Queensland), 14/- to 18/- per half case. Potatoes, 1st grade, 7/10½. Onions (Victorian), brown 21/- to 23/-. Swedes, 6/- to 12/-. Pumpkins, 12/- to 14/-. Sweet Potatoes, 14/- to 16/- per cwt. Cucumbers (Queensland), green, 4/- to 7/- per half case. Brussels Sprouts (Victorian), 12/- to 24/-, few higher, per box. Mushrooms (Cultivated), 5/- to 6/- per lb.

VICTORIA.

Melbourne (3/8/45).

Vegetables.

Beans, Kidney, 1/- to 1/4 lb. (max.); Beetroot, 9d. to 1/- doz. (max. 17/- cwt.); Beet, Silver, 3/- to 4/- doz.; Cabbages, 5/- to 9/- doz., few 10/-; Carrots, 3/- to 4/6 doz. bunches (max. 21/- cwt. without tops, 16/- with tops); Cauliflowers, 15/- to 22/- doz., few 24/-; Celery, 6/- to 8/- doz., Adelaide 12/- to 20/- double case, few to 24/-; Cucumbers, 2/ to 4/- doz.; Garlic, 1/5 to 1/6 lb.; Horseradish, 1/- to 1/3 bundle; Leek, 3/- to 4/- doz. bunches; Lettuce, 5/- to 10/- case, few to 12/-; Mint, 2/6 to 3/- doz. bunches; Melons, Citron, 6/- to 12/- doz.; Onions, Green, 2/6 to 3/- doz. bunches; Parsley, 2/- to 3/- do.; Parsnips, 3/- to 4/6 do. (max. 23/- cwt. without tops, 18/- with tops); Peas, 35/- to 40/- 50 lb.; Potatoes, 10/- to 10/6 bag; Pumpkins, 8/- to 24/- doz.; Radish, 1/6 to 2/- doz. bunches; Rhubarb, 4/- to 5/- do.; Savoys, 5/- to 8/- doz.; Spinach, 4/- to 6/- doz. bunches, Sprouts, 8/- to 12/- doz. lb.; Tomatoes, 15/- to 16/- half-case; Turnips, 3/- to 4/- doz. bunches; Swedes, 10/- to 14/- bag, 3/6 to 4/- doz. bunches.

Fruit.

(Bushel case, unless stated).

Apples, eating 16/- to 25/-, few to 26/- (max.), cooking 15/- to 25/-; Oranges, Navel and Valencias, to 16/3 (max.); Lemons, 15/- to 20/- (max.); Mandarins, 12/- to 22/-, few to 25/6 (max.); Pears, dessert, Packhams 14/- to 22/-, cullinary 10/- to 18/-; Papaws, 25/- to 35/- double case; Bananas, to 7½d. lb. (max.); Pineapples, 15/- to 23/9 double case (max.); Passionfruit, 18/- to 28/- half case, few to 30/-; Green Ginger, 1/6 lb.

CABBAGES THAT WERE TIPPED.

Growers Demand Compensation.

Cabbage growers in N.S.W. who lost heavily as the result of the rejection by Food Control of a considerable portion of last year's crop are determined to "fight the issue out" with the Commonwealth.

The Secretary of the Vegetable Growers' Association, Mr. R. Tyacke, made that statement recently, referring to large quantities of Cabbages that were "tipped" last year because they were classed as unsuitable for dehydration.

For six months, he said, the Minister for Commerce, Mr. Scully, had been skilfully side-stepping the issue, but it had now reached the stage when growers had lost patience and were determined to go to considerable lengths to secure justice.

The Federal Government had admitted that the growers had a case, and had decided as "an act of grace" to pay compensation to "those most deserving of relief." But, for some reason which no one could understand, no producers outside the Gosford and Burragorang districts were to participate.

APRICOT SCAB OR "SHOT HOLE."

Experimental work conducted by the Victorian Department of Agriculture on the control of this disease showed that thorough spraying with Bordeaux Mixture 6:4:40, applied just as the final leaves are falling (about the end of May) and again at the pink bud stage (about the middle of August), reduced the percentage of infected Apricots in three years from 77 per cent. on unsprayed trees to 2 per cent. on trees which had received the above spray programme.

Bordeaux mixture may be prepared by dissolving 12 lb. of finely crystalline copper sulphate in 72 gallons of water in an 80 gallon spray vat. Then mix 12 lb. of hydrated lime with eight gallons of water, start the agitators on the vat and slowly pour the lime solution into the vat. If a small quantity of the spray (say 10 gallons) is required, it is made up as follows:—Dissolve 1½ lb. of copper sulphate (the small crystalline form dissolves more readily) in 5 gallons of water in a non-metallic vessel. In another vessel dissolve either 1½ lb. of hydrated lime or 1 lb. of quicklime in another 5 gallons of water. Then mix the two solutions, together by pouring them simultaneously into a third non-metallic vessel. The mixture, which should be sky-blue in colour, may then be put into a bucket pump and it is sprayed out immediately.

"We can no longer permit any nation, or group of nations, to attempt to settle their arguments with bombs and bayonets. If we do not want to die together in war, we must learn to live together in peace." — President Truman.

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APPLES AND PEARS.

Ceiling Prices for July.

CANBERRA, July 4.—Increases of 1/- a case wholesale, and ½d. a lb. retail, in the prices of Apples and Pears in all capital cities were announced by the Prices Commissioner (Professor Copland) to-night.

The maximum ceiling prices will now be:

Pears, wholesale, per case, Brisbane, 31/-; Sydney, 29/-; other capitals, 29/-. Retail, per lb., Brisbane, 11d.; Sydney, 10½d.; other capitals, 10½d.

Apples, wholesale, per case, Brisbane, 30/-; Sydney, 28/-; other capitals, 26/-. Retail, per lb., Brisbane, 11d.; Sydney, 10½d.; other capitals, 10d.

These prices will apply only to first grade fruit, poorer quality being sold at lower rates according to cost into retailers' store. Country retailers will be permitted to add their actual into store costs to their purchase price before determining the retail price.

Professor Copland said it was normal practice to allow increases late in the season to offset higher cool storage costs, and losses resulting from storage. This season's very adverse conditions resulting in lighter crops, had justified an increase in the ceiling prices to growers.

Professor Copland denied persistent rumours in Victoria, that a rise in the price of Oranges was imminent. It was plain that the average earnings of the industry would be high, he said. The arrangement for price control this year included an increase in price in the spring, and it would be unfortunate if the rumours should give growers the impression that an earlier increase would be made.

RECENT APPLE BOYCOTT.

Test Weighing of Apples in Sydney.

Ceiling Price Reduction Where Cases Contain Less Than 40 lb.

Following the recent boycott of Apples at the Sydney markets, the N.S.W. Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Graham) convened a conference representative of all interested in the industry.

Apples are sold retail by weight, and wholesale by the case—presumed to hold 40 lb. Some cases indeed contain more than 40 lb., but test weighings revealed that all sizes of Tasmanian Jonathans, from 2½ to 3 inches weight were less than 40 lb. to the case; 3 inch Jons. were lightest, viz., 35.47 to the bushel case.

The Prices Commissioner has agreed that where Apples are less than 40 lb. to the case, the ceiling price shall be graduated according to weight. Thus on the maximum price of 27/- per case (40 lb.) only 23/7½ would be paid for a case containing 35 lb.

Tasmanian Apples up to and including 2⅝ inches will be regarded as 38½ lb.; for 2¾ and over 35½ lb.

So far, Tasmanian Apples have been mainly in dispute, but it is understood the Prices Branch will give consideration to the inclusion of other Apples if found to be necessary.

MINERAL REQUIREMENTS OF POULTRY.

Mostly Met by the Ordinary Ration.

The nutritional requirements of poultry include thirteen minerals, calcium (lime), magnesium, potassium, sodium, iron, manganese, zinc, cobalt, copper, phosphorus, chlorine, iodine and sulphur. A fowl's body contains about 4 per cent. of minerals and an egg about 10 per cent., and, although these percentages may appear small, deficiency of any one of the minerals will quickly show in decreased production, or symptoms of a "deficiency disease."

Fortunately only a few of the above thirteen minerals are ever likely to be lacking in practical rations (writes G. L. McClymont, veterinary officer of the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture). These are calcium, phosphorus, sodium, chlorine and manganese. The contents of these minerals in rations can be increased by the following supplements:—

Calcium.—Shell grit, oyster shell, ground limestone, limestone chips, bone-meal, dicalcic phosphate.

Phosphorus. — Bonemeal, dicalcic phosphate.

Sodium and Chlorine.—Common salt (sodium chloride).

Manganese.—Manganese sulphate.

Phosphorus and manganese are lacking only in exceptional circumstances; thus, in general, calcium, and sodium and chlorine supplied by shell grit or ground limestone, and common salt, are the only supplements required.

Proprietary "mineral mixtures" and "tonics" containing an impressive array of minerals such as iron, magnesium, iodine, cobalt, copper, sulphur, as well as calcium, sodium, chlorine, phosphorus and manganese are sometimes put on the market as the potential means of increasing production and promoting better health. Such mixtures are, in the great majority of cases, of little value, and in those cases where they do appear to have some effect this is almost certainly due to their content of calcium or common salt. That is, they have corrected a calcium or salt deficiency which could have been much more cheaply corrected by using less expensive sources of calcium and salt than "tonics."

All the minerals other than lime and common salt are, of course, essential, but all feeds contain a certain amount of minerals, e.g., wheat contains 2 per cent., bran 6 per cent., meat meal 20 per cent., and so on. This mineral matter in the feeds, when the feeds are made up into a normal ration, almost without exception, provides sufficient essential minerals to meet the requirements of poultry except for calcium and common salt and sometimes manganese and phosphorus. Moreover, excess of minerals can be just as harmful as insufficiency.

"And, my friend," asked the evangelist, "what parable do you like best?"

"The one about the multitude that loafs and fishes."

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PEAR PUBLICITY IN U.S.A.

The U.S.A. Pear Bureau is doing valuable publicity work in advertising Pears and increasing the consumption of this healthful fruit.

Here is just one of the recipes issued.

Pear Sparkle.

1 Pear, sugar syrup, sparkling water.

Peel and slice the ripe Pear. Crush the pulp with a fork and strain. Pour the juice over ice cubes placed in a tall glass. Sweeten to taste with the sugar syrup. Fill glass with sparkling water and serve. This is for a single drink.

— SPECIAL NOTICE TO FRUITGROWERS —

In response to numerous requests from growers for information as to who are members of the

VICTORIAN CHAMBER OF FRUIT & VEGETABLE INDUSTRIES,

the following list is given. All are members of the above Association, and are registered firms carrying on business in the WHOLESALE FRUIT MARKET, MELBOURNE. (All Members under Fidelity Bond)

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Correspondence is invited by the Association.

Office: 21 Wholesale Fruit Market, Queen St., Melbourne. Phone: F 4866.

Zinc Treatment for Vines

Winter and Spring Treatments Recommended by S. Aust. Chief Horticulturist.

EARLY APPLICATION of zinc sulphate, 2 lb. to 1 gallon of water, was recommended by the S. Aust. Chief Horticulturist (Mr. A. G. Strickland, M.Ag.Sc.) at the recent conference of the River Murray Agricultural Bureau (states the "Murray Pioneer"), under certain circumstances the strength could be reduced to 1½ lb.

Four Questions.

The questions, which were put on behalf of the Waikerie branch by Mr. F. R. Francis, were as follows:—

(1) How long does zinc sulphate remain unchanged if kept dry, and if changes occur, what are the chemical reactions?

(2) Will the application of zinc sulphate to the vines cure mottle leaf of Sultanas?

(3) Is it sufficient to apply zinc to Gordos at pruning time in alternate years?

(4) Is there a period during the pruning season when applications of zinc are ineffective?

Colour Change Not Harmful.

In reply to (1), Mr. Strickland said that growers would have noticed that zinc sulphate tended to turn whitish when kept for any length of time. This did not weaken it, but, on the other hand strengthened it. The explanation was that the zinc sulphate was marketed in the form of crystals, which contained water of crystallization. All that happened in the change that had been noticed was that the outer crystals, representing only a small percentage of the whole, by coming in contact with the air, lost some of their water molecules. However, the change over the whole quantity was insufficient to necessitate any modification in the mixing formula.

Winter and Spring Treatments.

Regarding zinc treatment for Sultanas, raised in (2), the Chief Horticulturist said that he wished he had more information on the subject. Work was going on here and in America, but nowhere had it yet been decided what was the best method to apply zinc to cane-pruned vines. With spur-pruned varieties, swabbing in the winter had given unquestionably best results, but this was not so with those that were cane-pruned.

The best way to apply zinc to Sultanas was by means of a foliage spray with zinc oxide in the spring—an insoluble compound being required for this purpose whereas a soluble one was used for the winter swabbing—but growers should not expect to get the same startling results they had become accustomed to in the spur-pruned varieties.

1,000 Acres of Vines Treated.

Mr. Strickland remarked that the application of zinc had become almost a standard practice along the River. In Waikerie as much as five tons of zinc had been used last year on trees and vines, representing that about 1,000 acres of vines had been treated.

Yearly Applications.

Regarding (3), Mr. Strickland said that more information was still needed on this matter. A little work on it had been done at the Berri Experimental Orchard. It appeared that there was some residual effect from each application, but it was not great, and his advice was to apply each season. He added that it was a good idea to give proper supervision to the swabbing.

Apply Zinc Early.

Concerning (4), Mr. Strickland explained that as soon as the vines started to bleed it would appear that it was impossible for them to take up the zinc.

"So," he said, "if you are going to give treatment, prune the vines early, and apply the zinc as soon as possible afterwards."

The longer the treatment was left after pruning, the less zinc would the cut ends take up. The best idea had been found to have a man or a boy following the pruners and applying the zinc sulphate solution immediately the vines were pruned.

Interesting Discussion.

In the discussion, Mr. Strickland said, in reply to a question, that **there was no doubt zinc greatly improved setting, especially on the Muscat of Alexandria type of Gordo.** Zinc applied in a poor season would have a residual effect, but it would still be desirable to follow up with an application in the next season.

In answer to further questions, he said that he did not think there could be such a thing as "saturation point" regarding absorption of zinc by the vines; the only thing the zinc imparted was vigour, and he had never heard of vines dying from excess vigour.

Concerning spurs dying after swabbing, this had been noted in a number of cases, but the loss was very much more than offset by the improved returns from the vines. A point to be noted in this connection was **that 2 lb. of zinc sulphate to 1 gallon of water was the upward limit of strength advisable.** It was possible that an extra concentration might occur in the last portion of the mixture to be applied. If in any doubt regarding this, perhaps it might be best for the grower to reduce the strength to 1½ lb. to the gallon, and watch results.

CLOTHING FOR DEVASTATED EUROPE.

The Australian Council for U.N.R.R.A. is making an urgent appeal for clothing to assist the millions of suffering people in Europe. The need is very great, the generosity of country folk is proverbial. Here is an opportunity to provide everything possible in the way of clothing. Gifts can be sent through local organisations and municipal councils.

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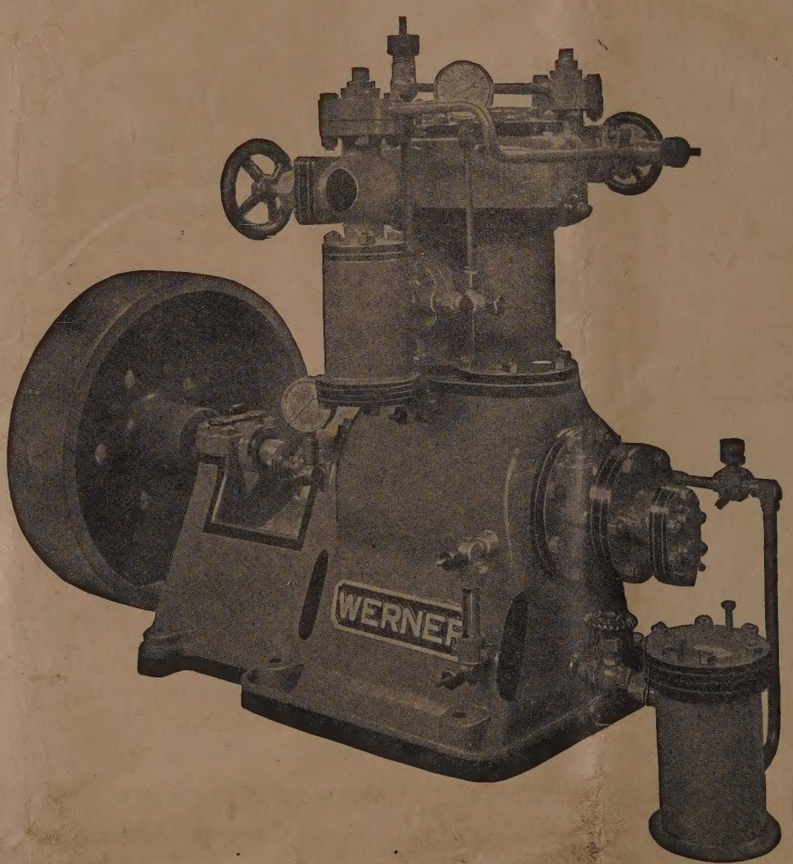

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